

TV incarnation of Mahabharata thrills millions every Sunday

NEW DELHI, June 11, (AP): In mid-July many Indians will revert to sleeping late on Sundays, going for a drive or eating a good breakfast.

Most haven't done so for more than 18 months, because they've stayed riveted to the television screen every Sunday at 9 am for another installment of the Mahabharata, a mythological Hindu epic whose television incarnation is the country's hottest show.

Doordarshan, the government department that controls the only nation-wide channel, estimates the one-hour shows — which conclude July 8 — attract an average audience of

90 million people each week, or more than one-tenth of India's population of 880 million.

The serial is in the Hindi language, but Doordarshan officials say its appeal reaches far beyond the northern, Hindi-speaking regions of the country. In the southern state of Kerala, newspapers publish a transcript of each week's show in Malayalam, the local language.

"People here are highly involved in the Mahabharata," says I. G. Venugopal, a resident of Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala.

"They read the newspaper to get to know the outline and then watch the serial."

Venugopal, a ham radio buff, says even ham operators are much quieter during the programmes.

The Mahabharata is a kaleidoscope of court intrigue and fierce battles between two sets of feuding brothers, tempered with religion, philosophy and the virtues and vices of princes and aspiring kings.

Many Hindus learn the story in their childhood, when it is re-told as the victory of good over evil with the five good Pandava brothers defeating the 100 bad Kaurava brothers.

But now, as the show begins to peak (the 99th Kaurava has just been killed in battle), several twists and nuances are beginning to come through. The Pandavas aren't fully white; they have used every trick in the book to win.

And some on the Kaurava side aren't totally bad. Their army chief — who is the illegitimate son of the mother of the Pandavas — is chivalrous in battle. And the guru of the Pandavas, another good guy, was on the Kaurava side until he died.

"Most of this we didn't know," says Shailendra Chopra, an employee of Indian

Airlines, the domestic air carrier. "It's like a crime thriller. What will happen next?"

The Mahabharata appears to have transcended religious barriers in India, where 82 per cent of the people are Hindu but there are large communities of Muslims, Sikhs and Christians.

In one New Delhi house, two Muslim carpenters installing new windows threatened to take Sunday off unless they were given access to the television set.

"I watch the serial every week. If I miss an episode now, I won't understand anything,"

said Naseem Ahmed.

The Mahabharata is also big business. Doordarshan, which means "far vision," said it gets about 6.5 million rupees (\$380,000) for selling individual advertisement spots before the serial each week.

Permanent commercial sponsors of the programme get free spots in exchange for the money they pay the serial's producer.

The price received by producer B. R. Chopra is guarded, but newspapers estimate he gets about one million rupees (\$38,000) per instalment. About one-third of that amount is profit, says the Sunday Observer newspaper.

Dhaka bids to restore reserved parliamentary seats for women

DHAKA, June 11, (Reuters): Bangladesh plans to restore 30 seats in parliament exclusively for women, a constitutional privilege that lapsed three years ago.

Law Minister Habibul Islam Bhuiya, introducing a constitutional amendment bill in parliament yesterday, said the restoration

of the reserved seats would allow the country's women to bolster their political role.

The bill, known as the constitution (tenth amendment) act, says there shall be reserved 30 seats exclusively for women who shall be elected by an electoral college consisting of 300 elected members of parliament. The 30 seats will be in addition to those filled in a

general election.

Bhuiya said women politicians in Bangladesh had enjoyed this privilege for 15 years. But the constitutional provision allowing such privilege had lapsed in 1987.

He said the reserved seat privilege under the new amendment would last for 10 years.

Filipino colonel killed in ambush

MANILA, June 11, (Reuters): Suspected communist guerrillas shot and killed a Philippine military intelligence commander today in the sixth rebel ambush in Manila in three weeks, police said.

Colonel Saturnino Dumalao was gunned down near his house six days after his men captured a senior communist officer. The incident happened during a military alert on the eve of tomorrow's Independence Day celebration.

"We're looking at all angles but it is possible this was the work of the sparrow," police investigator Gerardo Biong said, referring to communist death squads known by that name for their speed.

Police said Dumalao was driving to work when four men stopped him, dragged him out of his car and shot him using pistols and automatic weapons. The gunmen fled in a van.

A military spokesman said Dumalao was a leader of a crack intelligence unit that captured Arturo Tague, a chief communist recruiter ranked number six in the communist hierarchy, on June 5 in the same residential suburb where Dumalao was killed.

Dumalao was the 11th person to be killed in stepped-up communist attacks around Manila in the past 19 days.

The military has been put on alert amid rumours that right-wing army rebels might launch a new coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino, who has survived six military revolts in her more than four years in office.

The military said it would deploy a 2,000-strong anti-terrorist force around the capital, specially at vital power and communications installations, to forestall any violence.

Aquino is expected to announce the formation of a new political movement at tomorrow's independence anniversary in what political analysts view as a signal of her bid to seek re-election in 1992. She has repeatedly disavowed plans to run for a second term.

The movement is intended to revive the broadly based support that swept her to power in 1986 "people power" revolt. Popular support for Aquino has dwindled as her government muddles through an array of political and economic problems, including corruption, a breakdown in public services, and inflation.

Aquino yesterday called on the nation to unite against leftist and rightist groups that she said wanted to grab power in the Philippines.

She invited the public to attend tomorrow's celebration at the Manila Rizal park where she will deliver a speech and watch a military parade intended to show army loyalty to her.

The government is offering free transport to the public in an attempt to draw a big crowd. On June 10 police filed charges today against six Filipinos, including a policeman and a navy sailor, today, in connection with last month's slaying of a US marine sergeant.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of 30 years in jail, Alcala said. She said she would schedule a preliminary investigation soon to determine if the case warranted a trial before a civilian criminal court.

Principal suspects named in the charge sheet prepared by police Capt. Carlos Flores were Wilfredo Corpus, 20, and Rosendo Orian, 25, (UPI)



Manila show of force

Officials placed the armed forces on red alert Monday on the eve of the celebration of Philippines Independence Day, the military said. Armed forces spokesman Col Juanito Rimando said the maximum state of preparedness for the 160,000-member armed forces was aimed at ensuring a peaceful independence day celebration today.

He denied the alert call was prompted by recent rumours of another coup attempt. President Corazon Aquino, who has crushed six coup attempts since she took power in 1986, was expected to announce the formation of a new political party during her traditional address to the nation.

Tamil rebels attack convoy

18 soldiers killed

COLOMBO, June 11, (Reuters): Tamil separatist rebels killed 18 soldiers and attacked two police stations in eastern Sri Lanka today as fears grew that a civil war between minority Tamils and security forces might erupt again.

Military sources said the soldiers were returning to camp at Kalmunai in Ampara district when their truck was ambushed by fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

It was the worst Tiger provocation since the LTTE began peace talks with the government in May last year.

Residents said by telephone several rebels and members of the security forces were believed to have been killed when Tigers attacked Kalmunai police station.

"This could lead to another war," a businessman in Kalmunai said by telephone.

The military sources said Tigers, some in camouflage battle dress, and all carrying modern weapons, surrounded seven police stations in the Batticaloa and Ampara districts and ordered the police officers to leave.

Police and their families had vacated the stations at Batticaloa, Akkarapattu and Samanthurai, they said. Tigers occupied the Batticaloa station after storming it but no fighting was reported.

Army commander Hamilton Wanasinghe and police chief Ernest Perera flew to eastern Batticaloa this evening to defuse the situation, the military sources said.

The government, trying to persuade the Tigers to lay down their arms and contest elections, had ordered the security forces not to provoke them.

"I don't know how long our men are going to hold their fire under these provocative actions of the Tigers," a military officer said.

The Tigers have fought the Sri Lankan and Indian armies over the past seven years in a campaign to set up an independent state, and have taken virtual control of the northeast since Indian troops left the island in March.

The military sources said today's incidents were the latest in a series of provocative actions by the Tigers.

A Sri Lankan soldier was killed and 10 wounded when Tigers opened fire at their truck in northern Vavuniya last Thursday. The guerrillas abducted and later released four policemen attached to the Vavuniya police station on Saturday.

The sources said the Tigers had fired flares at the Vavuniya and Jaffna military airports in the past few days. They said today's incidents started after a Sinhalese and a Muslim were injured in a scuffle at a refugee camp in Batticaloa.

Taylor's romance story a hoax

LOS ANGELES, June 11, (AP): A story that said Elizabeth Taylor was romantically involved with a 23-year-old man and had undergone surgery over the weekend was a hoax, the star's publicist said today.

The hoaxer used an elaborate scheme including a public relations firm's answering service to trick the news media into the phony story about Miss Taylor, who has been hospitalized for two months.

The story said Miss Taylor was expected to be released from a California hospital within two weeks and could leave on the arm of her 23-year-old boyfriend Julian Lee Hobbs of Lake Orion, a suburb of Detroit, Michigan.

The story also said doctors over the weekend performed an abdominal biopsy on Miss Taylor that detected no sign of infection.

The source for a story by the Associated Press was a woman who gave her name as Lisa Flowers and who was reached through the answering service at Miss Taylor's public relations firm Chen Sam and Associates in New York City.

The story also quoted a woman who identified herself as Chen Sam, confirming the report, saying "it's a very romantic story."

But today Ms. Sam said from her New York office that the whole report was a fabrication.

"The isn't true. It is a hoax," Ms. Sam said this morning. "I have contacted Miss Taylor's attorneys and we are going to conduct an investigation."

"It is apparently somebody using my (telephone) service. This woman is impersonating me."

The hoaxer also confirmed the information for United Press International, which also gave the story wide distribution.

"We're still trying to untangle it now," said Bob Martin, UPI's bureau manager in Los Angeles. "We had trouble getting hold of Chen Sam and now it turns out we didn't get a hold of her at all."

The AP office in Los Angeles had placed calls to the hospital and Miss Taylor's publicist after receiving an AP inter-bureau message yesterday saying that Press Association Britain's domestic news agency had heard Miss Taylor had undergone another operation. The message said Press Association editors wanted a story.

A call was placed to the hospital for spokeswoman Pamela Weir, but she was unavailable Sunday.

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Bomb in Indian bus kills 8

NEW DELHI, June 11, (AP): A time bomb exploded on a bus in eastern India yesterday, killing at least eight passengers and injuring 28 others, news reports said. United News of India said the explosion near the town of Barpeta in Assam state, 1,325 kilometres (820 miles) east of New Delhi, was caused by tribal militants.

The Bodo tribes of the region have been demanding a separate state, alleging their tribal culture

and language are being stifled by the Assamese people.

The tribals, who are of Mongol origin and are mostly animists, say they want a separate state within the Indian union to protect their ancient culture from the Assamese, who are mostly Hindu.

At least 50 people have been killed so far this year in hit-and-run attacks blamed on the militants.

Five prisoners killed in Philippines jail break attempt

MANILA, June 11, (AP): Five prisoners using homemade pistols were killed today in an attempted jail break masterminded by a former provincial governor serving a life term for kidnapping and murder, the justice secretary said.

Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon said another inmate and three prison guards were wounded in the attempt at the national penitentiary in suburban Muntinlupa.

Drilon said prisoners in cell No. 7, including former Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Orlando

Dulay, tried to break out.

Dulay is serving a life term for killing three people working in the campaign of now-President Corazon Aquino when she ran against then-president Ferdinand Marcos in the February 1986 election.

Dulay was a staunch supporter of Marcos, who was toppled in a popular uprising after the fraud-marred election and later died in exile. Mrs Aquino became president when Marcos fled.

Drilon said the injured prisoner confessed that "Dulay was the mastermind." He did not elaborate. Dulay has been moved to an isolation cell.

"Inmates started firing and throwing molotov (fire) bombs and the guards returned fire," Drilon said.

Drilon said he ordered an investigation of how the prisoners were able to obtain two homemade .38-caliber pistols used in the attempted jail break.

Rappers 2 Live Crew held in Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, June 11, (AP): A rap musical group kept its promise to sing lyrics from an album ruled obscene and authorities kept their word, arresting two members of 2 Live Crew after an adults-only concert.

The arrests early yesterday came four days after a judge declared obscene the Miami group's album "As Nasty As They Wanna Be," and two days after a record dealer was arrested for selling the popular recording. Sheriff's deputies arrested 2 Live Crew leader Luther Campbell, 29, and singer Chris Wongwon, 26, shortly after the show at a Hollywood, Florida, nightclub.

"We didn't want to create any commotion in there, so I told them to let them get out of there and arrest them away from the premises," said Sheriff Nick Navarro, who has led a campaign to ban sales of the group's records.

Deputies pulled over the rappers' limousine a couple of blocks away from the club, said Sheriff's spokesman Al Gordon. Only Campbell and Wongwon were taken because the group split up after the performance, heading in different directions in three vehicles, Gordon said.

"We didn't have enough deputies to cover them," he explained, adding that arrest warrants for members Mark Ross and David Hobbs would be issued today.

Skydives to death

PHILADELPHIA, June 11, (AP): Two skydivers leaped off the 34th floor of a partly built downtown skyscraper yesterday, and one man died when his parachute failed to open, police said.

Robert Morris, 26, was dead at the scene, police said.

Rod Stoltzfus, 27, landed safely in a parking lot across the street just after dawn and left the scene, police said.

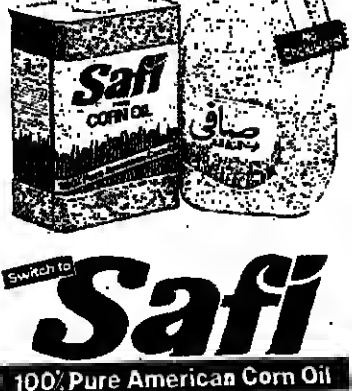
Stoltzfus called his pastor and went with him to see Morris' family before contacting police, said detective James Mooney.

No charges were filed against Stoltzfus, who returned to his home, Mooney said.

Li Giacomo Giovannetti said police would wait to decide whether to file charges until they talk to Stoltzfus, who was expected to return for questioning.

"We're going to find out just what the circumstances were," Giovannetti said.

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Millionaire's hideway for sale — a fort above the waves

NO MAN'S LAND FORT, England, June 11, (Reuters): The ultimate millionaire's hideway, a luxuriously refurbished fort two km (1.2 miles) off the southern English coast, is for sale, complete with light-house, helicopter and fleet of power boats.

The asking price for No Man's Land Fort, built after the Napoleonic wars as a defence against the French, is 5.75 million pounds sterling (\$9.6 million), and the owner is confident he will find a buyer — eventually.

"It's a rich man's toy, the ultimate yachtman's cottage," said property developer

Roger Penfold, who has spared no expense in refurbishing the man-made island after buying it from the Ministry of Defence in 1986.

"It may take a few months or even a year, but I am sure it will sell eventually."

"I see it going to a business tycoon or perhaps to a rock star who wants his own residential recording studio. He could tie his band up here till they produce the goods," Penfold said.

According to one of Britain's leading estate agents, 5.75 million pounds could buy

a castle in Scotland with several thousand hectares (acres) of land or an eight-bedroom country mansion near London with about six hectares (15 acres).

The fort, in the Solent Channel between the naval town of Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, was in ruins when Penfold bought it.

"It hadn't been occupied since the second World War and had been vandalised and looted a complete mess," said Penfold, 44, standing on the fort's imposing gun terrace.

The fort was built during a bout of "invasion panic" after Napoleon Bonaparte's

nephew Louis declared himself emperor Napoleon III in 1852.

Britain had feared French reprisals since the defeat of Bonaparte in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. But the government was torn between the Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, who favoured "gunboat diplomacy", and his Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister), William Gladstone, who was reluctant to increase expenditure as he was attempting to abolish income tax.

A royal commission was convened to settle the problem, and two large forts were

built off Portsmouth to deter the French from any attack.

Work on No Man's Land began in 1861 and took 20 years to complete, by which time the French threat had evaporated. A second fort is still owned by the Defence Ministry.

No Man's Land's 49 guns, each weighing 38 tonnes, were never used, and were melted down for scrap before World War One. An anti-aircraft gun was mounted on the roof of the fort during World War Two as a defence against flying bombs.

The fort stands more than 200 metres (60

feet) above the waves, and is protected by 43 cm (17 inches) thick armour plate, weighing 6,400 tonnes.

No Man's Land boasts a music room with a grand piano, swimming pool, four guest bedrooms and a master bedroom with a bed that rotates 360 degrees to catch the finest views of the mainland, the Isle of Wight and the Solent.

Included in the price is a French aerosol atlathe Gazelle helicopter worth around 170,000 pounds (\$284,000) and a fleet of five power boats and launches.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LONDON: Swashbuckling leading man Harrison Ford is donating the bullwhip he used in his Indiana Jones movies to help raise funds for a new archaeology studies building, organisers said Thursday.

"He brought archaeology alive for the general public," said Cathy Gaingrande, organiser of the Institute of Archaeology's fund-raising drive.

Ford has made three films playing the role of adventurous archaeology Professor Indiana Jones for director Steven Spielberg.

Ford's bullwhip will be sold with other film and entertainment memorabilia at Christie's auction house in December.

"We don't know what it will fetch. Christie's said the price depends on who goes to the sale and how badly two or more bidders might want it," Ms Gaingrande said. (AP)

NEW YORK: One-time New York City limousine king William Fugazy was ordered to pay billionaire John Kluge \$46.6 million for lying about the car company's worth before selling it.

A jury decided Wednesday in favour of Kluge and awarded him more than \$15.5 million in damages. Under the state's civil racketeering law, the award was tripled by US District Judge Robert Carter.

Kluge, owner of Metromedia Company, bought Fugazy Express Car Service in 1985 and sued two years later, claiming Fugazy lied about the company's finances.

Fugazy, who said he would appeal, accused Kluge of mismanaging the company into bankruptcy. He said he remained mystified by the suit.

"He and I were friends," Fugazy said. "I guess that's the way it goes. I don't know what he was mad at." (AP)

COLUMBIA, Maryland: A concert pavilion is the latest to ban concerts by the Grateful Dead because of its fans.

Morristown Post Pavilion granted a police request to end scheduling of concerts by the veteran-rock 'n' roll band and the Jerry Garcia Band, headed by the Grateful Dead's lead singer, said John Parker, general manager of the 14,000-seat amphitheatre.

Grateful Dead spokesman Dennis McNally dismissed the pavilion's decision, saying drug arrests at concerts reflect a problem in society and should not be blamed on the bands.

"The same arrests are made at football games and baseball games," McNally said.

In California, Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley banned the group in April because of recurring drug-related arrests at concerts. (AP)

SARASOTA, Florida: A city ban on thigh-backed swimsuits has prompted a rear-guard action by devotees of the skimpy swimwear.

Demonstrators rallied Thursday outside City Hall to protest the ban, including several young women sporting the swimsuits, which leave the buttocks exposed. No arrests were made.

Last month, police arrested five people on indecent exposure charges for wearing the G-string swimsuits at the city's Lido Beach, touching off a debate at City Hall that led to the May 22 ban. The council voted Monday to uphold the ban.

If convicted, the five face up to 60 days in jail, but no court hearing has been set.

"They can't think of anything else to do," said Michele Larsen. "They have to complain something about us young kids." (AP)

WOODSTOCK, Georgia: Television mogul Ted Turner has promised to apologise for calling Christianity "a religion of losers" when he speaks at a church luncheon next week, the church pastor says.

"He made the statement he wants a chance to apologise to the world, but would say other things we might not like," said the Reverend Johnny Hunt of the 3,500-member First Baptist Church of Woodstock.

Hunt said Turner initiated the idea for the June 13 luncheon at the suburban Atlanta church, where a former girlfriend and a fishing companion are members.

Turner criticised Christians last year and again last month at the national convention of the American Humanists Association when he was named Humanist of the Year.

Hunt speculated that maybe Turner "hasn't met the right ones." (AP)

WHITE PLAINS, New York: James Michener wrote a plea to three young men who pleaded guilty to anti-Semitic vandalism: "Get off that doomed train right now."

A judge had given the men an unusual sentence: learn about the Nazi holocaust. Part of the assignment was to read a chapter from the author's book Poland on a concentration camp.

After learning of the sentence, Michener wrote to the men through the judge, John Carey, who said Wednesday he was moved by the author's interest.

"Follows, what you're doing is wrong," Michener wrote. "You will stain yourselves if you follow that route. Get off that doomed train right now."

Michael Morano, 18, Michael Venturino, 18, and Neville Anthony Mason, 20, pleaded guilty to defacing a high school a year ago. (AP)

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Target of boycott Korean grocer struggles in US

NEW YORK, June 11, (Reuters): "You've heard about the American dream, right? That's why I came here," says Jang Bong-Jae, owner of a grocery store in the black flatbush neighbourhood of Brooklyn.

Jang draws his index finger across his throat.

"Now, that's finished."

Jang's store has for nearly five months been the target of a boycott marked by confusion over how it started and heated up by racial tensions in New York City.

Jang is one of hundreds of thousands of Korean immigrants to the United States living in big urban centres like Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago and New York, and his case reflects the frictions faced by his community as it gets larger and more successful.

The boycotters, who believe Jang and his employees beat up a black woman after accusing her of shoplifting on January 18, exhort people to protest not just the attack but the dominance of successful Korean businesses in poor black neighbourhoods.

"The real question for black folks to consider in the 1990s is, who is going to control the economic life of the black community?" reads a pamphlet distributed in the area.

Jang contends the Haitian woman was scratched in a scuffle after refusing to pay what she owed. The truth may never be known as she dropped the charges, but the boycott continues.

"Mr Jang is a pawn in a very big game," said Jim Martin of the Congress of Racial Equality, which opposes the boycott.

But Jang himself, a native of Seoul who came to the United States in 1983, has gone from confusion to almost eerie good humour about the boycott, which has reduced the number of his daily customers from over 1,000 to an average of about 40.

"I get phone callers at home saying, 'You're going to die,' and I answer them, 'Sure, let's go together,'" Jang, 35, said in his spotless back storeroom, ignoring the jeers coming from behind a police barrier at the front of the store.

The anger directed at Jang has roots in the image of Koreans as rapacious businessmen who discriminate against blacks and are concerned only for their own, contributing nothing to the poor communities they take money from.

Jang, who plans to apply for US citizenship, said he and his Korean friends just want to work for the good life like everybody else.

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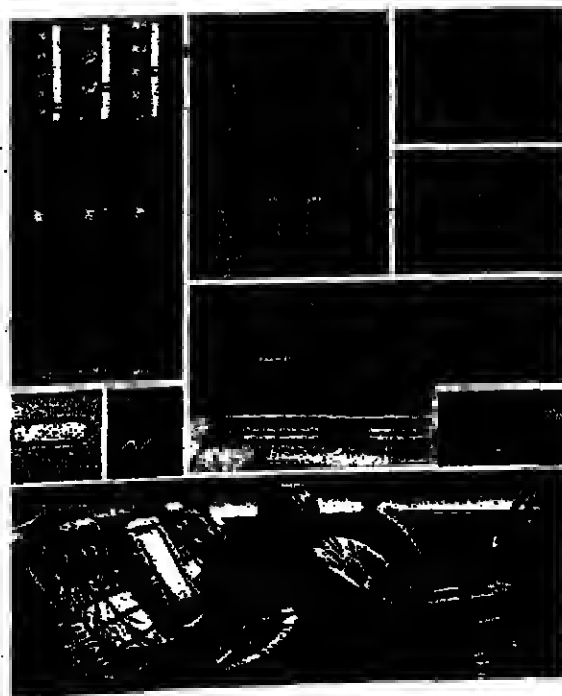
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Colombia, Maoist rebels to hold talks

BOGOTA, June 11, (Agencies): The Colombian government, which earlier this year negotiated the disarming of the leftwing M-19 guerrilla group, has taken an important step toward peace with another rebel force.

After three days of talks with government officials in Colombia's northern jungle last week, guerrillas of the Maoist People's Liberation Army agreed to free all prisoners held in the northern province of Cordoba and to begin detailed talks with the government on ending their 23-year-old insurgency.

A joint rebel-government statement published on Saturday said the two sides had also agreed on zones into which the guerrillas could move to avoid clashes with the army while talks were underway.

The Liberal El Espectador newspaper yesterday described the agreement as "the first big step on the long road which — both sides permitting — will end in the demobilisation of the subversive group and the achievement of another goal in the twisting road to peace."

President Virgilio Barco's government has given high priority to seeking peace with rebel groups in an effort to stem violence by guerrillas, right-wing groups and drug-traffickers which killed more than 14,000 Colombians last year.

President-elect Cesar Gaviria, who takes office in August, has said he will continue peace efforts.

Colombia's most famous guerrilla group, M-19, which laid down its arms last March after receiving government amnesty, became a peaceful political party.

But shortly after that, its charismatic leader Carlos Pizarro was assassinated.

The party nevertheless went on to win 12 per cent of the vote in May 27 presidential elections, the best showing ever by a leftist group in Colombia.

Three of Colombia's five remaining rebel groups have shown interest in joining the peace process. But the two other major rebel groups — the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces and the National Liberation Army — appear committed to fighting on.

Three policemen were killed in Colombia's cocaine capital, Medellin, and a leading newspaper said yesterday that hundreds of officers had tried to resign to escape a vendetta against them by powerful drug barons.

Police said gunmen shot dead three young police officers in three attacks in Medellin on Saturday bringing the number of officers killed in the city, 250 km (160 miles) northwest of Bogota, to 102 so far this year.

Argentina: Argentine President Carlos Menem, who according to his wife Zulema Yoma left home a month ago without any explanation, returned from a 12-day round-the-world trip yesterday to face marital and political tribulations.

The peronist leader, arriving from Rome at the Ezeiza international airport, dodged reporters' questions on his marriage saying: "I know what you want to ask about, but that is an intimate subject and on that issue I'll answer nothing."

Asked if he would return home to his family at the Olivos presidential residence, Menem said: "I am going to stay where I belong."

Nevertheless, the state news agency Telam later reported that he was lodging at the flat of one of his aides. (Reuters)

Nicaragua: Contra rebels demobilising after a 9-year war are shunning development centres the government established as part of a peace agreement. Instead, they're going back home.

"Very few of us are going to go to the centre because we prefer to see our people, whom we've gone years without seeing," said Filemon Cruz Lopez, an 18-year-old who said he joined the rebels eight years ago. (AP)

El Salvador: The Archbishop of San Salvador yesterday accused police of torture, denounced murders committed by rightist death squads and leftist rebels and appealed for an end to impunity for those who abuse human rights.

"There is a great clamour against the impunity that — by the design, tolerance and perhaps maliciousness of military and judicial authorities — reigns in the country," Monsignor Arturo Rivera Damas said.

He spoke in a homily at the Sacred Heart Basilica in the downtown. (AP)

Cuba: Communism is still going strong in Cuba despite the rapid political changes in Eastern Europe, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmeria said after he arrived in Venezuela for a brief stopover.

Fujimori defeats Llosa in elections

Novelist concedes defeat: wishes adversary success

LIMA, June 11, (AP): Alberto Fujimori, a political newcomer and the son of Japanese immigrants, easily defeated novelist Mario Vargas Llosa in a presidential runoff and promised to improve the economy of his bankrupt nation.

Vargas Llosa quickly conceded defeat in yesterday's race. Exit polls by independent pollsters showed him losing by 13 to 19 percentage points. He wishes Fujimori success in trying to turn the country around and fight drug trafficking and a decade-old leftist rebel insurgency.

Fujimori, a 51-year-old agricultural engineer and former university rector, ran on a shoestring campaign budget as an independent against the centre-right Vargas Llosa, backed by the well-heeled Democratic

Front Coalition. He gained the support of Peru's poor, Protestant Evangelists and other groups of disaffected voters.

Fujimori takes charge next month of a country where four of five people have no steady job, inflation runs at 2,000 per cent a year, and political violence has claimed more than 18,500 lives in the last decade. "I realise it will be a titanic task," he said soberly at a press conference last night.

He invited all political parties to participate in his government in areas where agreements could be reached.

Kaifu extends congratulations

Japan celebrates Fujimori win

TOKYO, June 11, (UPI): Barrels of rice wine were broken open, hanzai cheers rang out and a Peruvian flag was hoisted today in the ancestral home of Peru's new president, Alberto Fujimori.

Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, was elected president of Peru yesterday. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu congratulated Fujimori on his election, saying "I extend my hearty congratulations to the president-elect, chosen by the public."

He said "I hope the president-elect will summon public will and strive to overcome the mounting difficulties and achieve the economic reconstruction."

Deputy government spokesman Nohuo Ishihara, meanwhile, said Japan would not take special measures to provide economic assistance to Peru.

"Our government does not take special measures on the grounds that a Japanese descendant has won (the presidential election)," Ishihara said.

Japan celebrated his victory as the first time a son of a Japanese immigrant has been elected president of a nation.

Children were given the day off from

school in the small town of Kawachi, where Fujimori's parents were born, and poured into the streets to wave Japanese flags.

The news of his victory was broadcast over the town's public address system.

Fujimori's uncle, Tomio Imoto, in a victory speech before a crowd of about 50 people, thanked the town's mayor and all its people for supporting his nephew.

"He has won at last," Imoto said. Imoto broke open a barrel of sake, or rice wine, a traditional Japanese victory celebration, and led the crowd in three cheers of "banzai," or long life, for Fujimori.

The Japanese government has said it would consider new financial aid to Peru following the election but denied such aid would be linked to Fujimori's victory.

"We want to congratulate whoever wins the election," a Foreign Ministry official said.

Japanese media, which rarely covers Latin American news, gave top billing to Fujimori's elections.

Major network news programmes led with the reports of his victory and the celebrations in Japan.

Fujimori takes over from populist Alan Garcia on July 28, the president-elect's 52nd birthday. Garcia, leader of the Aprista Party, was ineligible for a second consecutive five-year term.

Relatively little violence took place around the country despite threats by Shining Path Maoist guerrillas to disrupt the elections, although authorities said the rebels killed four people — one at a polling station.

Thousands of campaign supporters paraded and celebrated until well after midnight outside the dilapidated headquarters of Fujimori's change 90 party in downtown Lima.

The celebration turned violent at one point when Fujimori supporters stoned a truck carrying a television crew from a station that had criticised Fujimori throughout the campaign. No injuries were reported.

Fujimori said his government would stress economic development over military and police repression as the best way to fight both leftist subversion and cocaine trafficking.

He did not indicate where the money would come from for economic development. The Peruvian Treasury is running a \$100-million deficit, and the nation has a \$20 billion foreign debt.

Vargas Llosa, 54, ran on a free-market platform. He pledged harsh austerity measures to revive Peru's economy.

Vargas Llosa, appearing in good spirits, conceded defeat three hours after the polls closed and urged Peruvians to put the bitterly fought presidential campaign behind them.

"The Peruvian people have made their decision known. An unmistakable majority have favoured my adversary. I wish him success in a difficult responsibility the Peruvian people have placed on him," he told a crowd of 1,000 supporters outside his campaign headquarters.

"Don't let this new government fail," he told the crowd.

Vargas Llosa's chief political aide, Alfredo Barnechea, called it a protest vote. "It has not been a vote for a political programme but a vote to stop Mario Vargas Llosa."

Official returns were not expected for at least three weeks because of poor communication with mountain and jungle regions.

Nearly 10 million Peruvians are registered to vote, and the law requires them to cast ballots.

Guerrillas exploded at least nine other bombs in Huancayo, 120 miles (190 kilometres) east of Lima, police said. One of the bombs killed the rebel who was carrying it, police said.

The rebels have repeatedly called for voters to boycott the elections, in which Fujimori overwhelmed novelist Mario Vargas Llosa. Exit polls gave Fujimori a 13-point to 16-point lead.

In a separate attack in this city of 100,000, rebels yesterday shot and killed three brothers, police said. A note found on one of the bodies said, "this is how informers die."

The body of a fourth man was found yesterday police said. They said there were no leads as to who killed him.

Voter turnout appeared to be very low in Huancayo. Many fewer people seemed to have voted than in the first round of elections April 8.

All businesses in the city were closed election day and the streets were empty of cars. The Shining Path called an "armed strike" in Huancayo for election weekend, threatening to kill anyone who ventured into the street.

"Armed strikes" were also called in the Andean cities of Ayacucho, Huaraz and La Oroya.



Fujimori waves after voting June 10 in a public school in Lima, Peru. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fate of Canada accord unsure

OTTAWA, June 11, (Reuters): The tiny impoverished island of Newfoundland holds the fate of Canadian unity in its hands as it considers whether to support an accord bringing French-speaking Quebec into the constitution.

Newfoundland premier Clyde Wells said he would announce today whether to put a weekend agreement signed by all other provinces to a referendum or a vote in his legislature.

The agreement, reached on Saturday night after seven grinding days of talks, empowers Quebec to guard its culture and language against assimilation into English-speaking Canada.

It does unless Newfoundland approves it by June 23. New Brunswick and Manitoba, two dissident provinces earlier on, have agreed to ratify the accord in time.

Wells invited officials from the federal government and other provinces to Newfoundland to try to sway his citizens.

"Let them come here and publish what they said to me in the secrecy of that room and if the people are moved then people's decision is right," Wells told reporters.

The province, a craggy outcrop off Canada's east coast, itself joined the confederation in 1949 when Newfoundlanders narrowly approved membership in a referendum following fistfights in the streets.

Home to only 570,000 of 26 million Canadians, the island depends heavily on federal economic aid, but unemployment, at 17 per cent, remains the highest in the country.

Quebec rejected the 1982 constitution that broke Canada's last colonial ties with Britain because it felt the document did not help it protect its heritage. The Meech Lake Accord, named after a government retreat in Quebec's Gaspereau Hills was drafted in June 1987 to address Quebec's concerns.

Chief among Wells' objections is granting Quebec status as a "distinct society" for fear the language may be used in legislation to override the rights of Quebec's minorities guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has set out to heal deep wounds inflicted in the caustic debate over granting Quebec special status.

"It has opened wounds of the national psyche that will not quickly close over," Mulroney said. "We must seek to heal the damage in the months ahead. The federal government will promote the unity of the country very vigorously."

Quebec television has repeatedly flashed images from an Ontario town where a handful of citizens trampled Quebec's flag to protest against granting the province special powers. Mulroney said the inflammatory action suggested intolerance by a small band of Canadians while a vast majority warmly embraced Quebec as the new brother in confederation.

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon, in hailing the accord, invoked the ghost of Winston Churchill and his description of the British Commonwealth of nations.

Six-month jail for Poindexter

Iran-Contra crimes

WASHINGTON, June 11, (Reuters): John Poindexter, national security adviser to former president Ronald Reagan, was sentenced today to six months in prison for attempting to cover up the Iran-Contra scandal.

The sentence makes Poindexter the only person given prison time of the seven convicted of Iran-Contra crimes. His was the last major case pursued by the special prosecutor.

Poindexter, the highest-ranking member of the Reagan White House to face trial in the scandal, was convicted on April 7 of two charges of lying to Congress; two charges of obstructing congressional investigations and one of conspiring to cover up the secret sales of arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaragua's Contra rebels.

The maximum sentence for the crimes of which he stood convicted was 25 years in prison and \$1.25 million in fines.

Poindexter betrayed no emotion as he received his sentence from federal judge Harold Greene and was told he has 10 days to file an appeal. "I'm not going to appeal," he said.

In imposing the first jail term of the long-running Iran-Contra prosecutions, Greene said, "the sentencing principle that operates here is one of deterrence."

He said white-collar criminals and public officials of Poindexter's former high stature must

not feel the law does not apply to them.

"None of the other six men convicted in the case — including Oliver North, Poindexter's flamboyant aide at the White House National Security Council — was sent to prison."

All were charged with crimes in the Reagan-era plan to sell arms to Iran — an avowed enemy of the United States — in hopes of freeing American hostages held by pro-Iranian guerrillas in Lebanon, and to divert profits from the sale to the Contras despite a congressional ban on such aid.

Prosecutors contended during Poindexter's month-long trial that he wrote misleading letters and made misleading statements to members of Congress who tried to uncover the plan in 1985 and 1986.

The scandal, which stirred the worst political crisis of Reagan's presidency, became public in November 1986.

"Just as shocking to many Americans was the scandal within the scandal disclosed at the same time: the Contra rebels' \$12 million of the arms-sale profits had been diverted to buy guns and other supplies for the Contras to get around a congressional ban on official US aid to them."

For Poindexter, the consequences of the breaking scandal were swift:

Venetians await decision of Expo

VENICE, Italy, June 11, (Reuters): Venice, the fabled canal city which has never failed to inspire passion throughout its 1,300-year history, awaits a decision this week which many admirers say could destroy it.

Despite a chorus of opposition at home and abroad, the Italian government enthusiastically backed by big business, has maintained its bid for Venice to be the star attraction of Expo 2000.

The Paris-based international exhibitions office will decide on Thursday whether to hold the world fair in Venice, Toronto or Hanover.

Venice's gondoliers, police and city council do not want the fair. The European Economic Community (EEC) Parliament has voted against it and Italian senators passed an anti-Expo

motion. Opponents say Venice would collapse under the strain. It now receives a peak of 60,000 visitors a day but the four-month fair is forecast to attract an additional 175,000 tourists every day.

"Venice is a stunning object which must be preserved with love and not raped, especially not for something temporary like the fair," said Mario Fazio.

Many Venetians are still shocked by the damage inflicted on art treasures last July when 150,000 youths packed St Mark's Square for a rock concert by the group Pink Floyd.

Backers of the bid to host the fair stress that they would hold only parts of it in Venice and would stage the rest in mainland cities of the Veneto region, including Verona and Padua.

Soviet hijacker charged

To undergo psychiatric tests



Semionov waits in custody June 10. (Reuters wirephoto)

STOCKHOLM, June 11, (AP): A district court yesterday arraigned a Soviet youth accused of hijacking a Soviet domestic passenger plane and diverting it to Sweden, official said.

The court said Dmitry Semionov, 17, would be held in custody pending a police investigation and ordered him to undergo a psychiatric examination.

"It is a pretty drastic step to hijack a plane," prosecutor Solveigh Riberdahl was quoted as saying by the national news agency TT.

Semionov faces a maximum sentence of four years in prison if convicted, TT said.

The newspaper Dagens Nyheter reported he was going to apply for political asylum in Sweden.

He could face a much harsher punishment if sent back to the Soviet Union.



Endara and Diaz shown leaving the Metropolitan Cathedral after exchanging vows on June 10. (Reuters wirephoto)

Exchange vows at metropolitan cathedral

Endara, 54, weds law student, 23

PANAMA CITY, June 11, (Reuters): Guillermo Endara, the 54-year-old president of Panama, married a 23-year-old law student yesterday in a modest Roman Catholic ceremony amid heavy security.

"It is a very happy moment," Endara said as hundreds of people cheered him and his bride, Ana Mae Diaz, outside the colonial-era metropolitan cathedral.

Endara, an affable, portly widower whose first wife died a year ago, met Diaz while staging a hunger strike last September to protest the rule of General Manuel Noriega.

Noriega was deposed in the December US invasion that brought Endara to power.

Security was heavy inside the cathedral and outside in the park, where hundreds stood under umbrellas in sometimes torrential downpours, for a glimpse of the couple.

After the 90-minute ceremony, Endara and his bride walked around the plaza in front of the cathe-

dral in a crush of guards to greet ecstatic well-wishers before heading two blocks west to the 19th-century presidential palace of Panama Bay for a reception.

There, the couple, accompanied by family members and friends, appeared on a balcony. The bride tossed her wedding bouquet into a crowd of several hundred people shouting, "Endara, we are with you."

Endara broke with Panamanian tradition in marrying Diaz, who comes from a more modest background than he and whose father is of Chinese descent.

The Roman Catholic ceremony and mass was attended by some 200 invited guests, including diplomats, friends and government officials, as well as several hundred citizens who waited up to two hours for a seat inside.

The ceremony passed without incident despite threats of disruption from people who lost their homes during the US invasion.

Astronomers, Quayle agree asteroid threat is real: kill millions on contact

WASHINGTON, June 11, (Reuters): Is there too much complacency about the possibility of earth being struck by a giant asteroid like the one blamed for snuffing out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago?

US Vice-President Dan Quayle, chairman of the National Space Council, and some astronomers are worried that there is.

If the past is truly a prologue to the future, they say, an asteroid could come hurtling down at any moment, at any point on the globe.

It's a big enough and landed close enough to a large city, it could kill millions of people on contact and send up clouds of dust that could

block out the sun and make the world a cold and life-threatening place for generations, scientific experts say.

"It would certainly benefit all nations to know when such an event might occur, or even those who could be affected and where such an event might happen," Quayle said in a recent speech to the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

The aeronautics institute has been pressing the government to set up a programme to identify asteroids that threaten to crash into earth and look for ways to push them off course.

The institute is asking the government to spend up to \$5 million on new telescopes to look for earth crossers over the next 10 to 15 years. Once they are found, their trajectories would be calculated by computer to determine those of greatest threat to the earth.

"Despite the low probability that a life-threatening asteroid impact will occur, the fact is that the probability of such an event is finite and, should it occur, the resulting disaster is likely to be without precedent," the institute said in a recent report.

While no human has ever been killed by a falling asteroid — at least as far as scientists

know — a dog was killed by one in Nakhli, Egypt, in 1960.

In March 1989 an asteroid bigger than an aircraft carrier and travelling at 74,000 kph (46,000 miles per hour) crossed the earth's orbit just six hours after the planet passed the same point in space.

"Had it struck the earth, the energy released would have been equivalent to that of 1,000 to 2,500 one-megaton hydrogen bombs," the institute said.

"In an area of high population density, millions of people would have died instantly."

Festivities to mark Stanley Jefferson alias 'Laurel's 100th birthday

LONDON, June 11, (AP): Long before he met Oliver Hardy, Stan Laurel made people laugh all by himself.

He was the disaster-prone, stage-struck Lancashire boy, born Stanley Jefferson, who set the stage on fire on the opening night of a home theatre.

The first time he performed in a real theatre, he squashed his father's top hat, then tipped his best frock coat for an encore.

Those were the little mishaps on the road to Hollywood, where Stanley Jefferson in 1918 became Stan Laurel, star of 75 movies on his own and co-star with Oliver Hardy in 105 more.

For Laurel's 100th birthday on June 16,

however, all roads lead to 3 Argyle St. in Ulverston, the northern town where Stanley Jefferson was born.

The attractions include the birthplace, the balcony in Coronation Hall where Laurel and Hardy greeted townspeople in 1947, the Laurel and Hardy museum and the companionship of the sons of the desert, members of the International Laurel and Hardy Fan Club.

And what will they learn of their hero? "A Difficult one, that," said Bill Cubin, curator of the Laurel and Hardy museum. "I don't think the surroundings could tell you anything about Stan. His grandfather and grandmother were simple Ulverstonian

people."

Letters written by Laurel and now in the museum's collection reflect happy memories of fishing in the canal, rolling Easter eggs or shopping with grandma Metcalfe. "That was a big event for me," Laurel recalled in one letter. "She used to buy me beer's treacle toffee. It sure was good."

In the attic of the family home in North Shields, A. J. Jefferson built a theatre for plays written, produced, directed and starring his 9-year-old son, Stanley.

John McCabe, an American actor and author of "The Comedy World of Stan Laurel," found much of the story of Laurel's early days in an article written in 1939 by the

father, a small-time impresario who operated theatres here and there in Britain.

Laurel devotees can travel north to see the derelict Pickard's theatre in Glasgow, Scotland, where 16-year-old Stanley Jefferson made his professional debut.

He was then working for his father at the Metropole theatre, on the business side, but he fibbed to his father about wanting to attend a party and sneaked off to appear at Pickard's.

A. J. Jefferson was out strolling that night, wandered into Pickard's and was surprised to find several pieces of this clothing there, and his son performing in them. Stanley didn't notice his father until he was taking

his bows.

Stanley played the Vaudeville Circuit, and his big break came with Fred Karno's comedy troupe.

Soon after young Jefferson joined the troupe, they were rehearsing a show called "Jimmy the Fearless" in London. The troupe's star, Charlie Chaplin, decided the show wouldn't work and refused to appear, so Jefferson got the part.

The show was a hit, and within a week Chaplin consented to star -- but Jefferson stayed on as Chaplin's understudy and second banana.

In 1912, the troupe returned to America where Chaplin resigned to make movies for

Mack Sennett. Stanley Jefferson became the principal comedian, but the troupe folded a short time later in Philadelphia.

Stanley Jefferson decided to stay. In 1917, he signed a contract with Universal Studios and that same year appeared in short film titled "Lucky Dog" with Oliver Hardy.

It wasn't until 1926, however, that they became a team in "45 Minutes from Hollywood." It was the birth of one of the greatest comedy teams in film history -- the reedy, hair-scratching Laurel with his childish innocence and mischief, and the tubby tie-twirling Hardy whose cherubic face belied a short temper when his partner got them into "another fine mess."



The Mega Borg explodes into flames as a fire boat attempts to protect the cargo of crude oil that is still aboard the crippled tanker, June 10. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bids to rescue burning tanker

Large oil spill off Texas coast expected

GALVESTON, Texas, June 11, (AP): Firefighters tried to keep a burning Norwegian supertanker with 38 million gallons (144 million litres) of oil from sinking in the Gulf of Mexico today. The ship's aft deck was just 5 feet (1.5 metres) above the surface, and blazing crude was spilling into the water.

Coast guard officials said firefighters would use foam to try to smother the blaze aboard the 853-foot (260-metre) Mega Borg, crippled 57 miles (92 km) southeast of Galveston. Some 30,000 gallons (113,500 litres) of foam was brought in during the night.

The ship was hit by an explosion and fire Saturday while some of its cargo was being transferred to a smaller tanker. Two of the 41 crewmen died, two were missing and presumed dead and 17 were injured, none seriously.

Little if any of the African light crude spilled initially or during small explosions later Saturday and early Sunday. But on Sunday afternoon, five powerful blasts within 20 minutes ripped through the ship, sending flaming crude into the air and water. The cause of the explosions was unknown.

Barry won't run for mayor

Bargaining chip in plea talks

WASHINGTON, June 11, (AP): District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry, on trial for alleged perjury and drug use, has decided that he will not seek re-election, sources close to Barry said.

Barry, 44, has told advisers he will abandon his hopes for a fourth, four-year term in an effort to restart stalled plea-bargain talks in his cocaine possession and perjury case.

"He knows that his re-election plans represent one of his best bargaining chips," said one source familiar with Barry's thinking. "This is a move he hopes will break the logjam around the plea talks."

The mayor has pleaded innocent to 10 misdemeanor cocaine possession charges, one misdemeanor cocaine conspiracy charge, and three felony



Barry wipes his face during a press conference. (Reuters file photo)

counts of lying to a grand jury about his alleged drug use.

Barry met his top campaign officials and fund-raisers last night, but it could not be determined immediately what happened at the meeting.

Tugboat pull free stranded cruise ship

WOODS HOLE, Massachusetts, June 11, (UPI): A 617-foot (188-m) cruise ship ran aground off Cape Cod in dense fog yesterday morning, leaking oil for several hours and forcing evacuation of the nearly 1,100 vacationing passengers and crew, the coast guard said.

The Bermuda Star, bound for Nova Scotia from New York City, was about 2 miles (3 km) from the Cape when it struck a shallow, rocky area in Buzzard's Bay called Cleveland Ledge at 8:30 am, coast guard spokesman Steve Aitkins said. It remained grounded for almost 13 hours.

The ship was finally pulled free by tugboats about 9:10 pm, and moored nearby for further inspection and repairs, a coast guard spokesman said.

The vessel was approaching the Cape Cod canal at the beginning of the peninsula and was at least one mile (1.5 km) outside the bay's shipping channel when the accident occurred, officials said.

None of the 687 passengers or 380 crew members aboard was hurt, Aitkins said. He said the ship took on water through two holes -- each about 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide and a foot (30 cm) long -- for about 90 minutes before the flooding was controlled.

"It's unusual. They usually don't get that far out of the channel. I don't know what they were doing out there," said Greg Peter.

Between 1,000 and 1,500 gallons (3,700 and 5,700 lit) of no. 6 fuel oil leaked from the Panamanian-registered liner.

The spill did not pose a major environmental threat, but the ship's operator, Bermuda Star Lines of Teaneck, New Jersey, was charged with violating the Federal Clean Water Act.

The blaze collapsed the ship's superstructure, which remained engulfed in flames. Columns of thick smoke could be seen nearly 40 miles (64 km) away.

The stern dropped 58 feet (18 metres) since the first explosion Saturday, indicating either the cargo had shifted or the ship was taking on water, coast guard Lt. Cmdr Frank Whipple said late Sunday.

"It's very possible with a good firefighting effort that a large-scale oil spill can be prevented and something as horrible as the tanker sinking can be prevented, but we don't know how much damage it's already received," coast guard chief petty officer Todd Nelson said.

The Mega Borg carried more than three times as much oil as was spilled by the Exxon Valdez off Alaska in March 1989 in the United States' worst oil spill.

But authorities noted that the oil spilled in Alaska was heavy crude, which doesn't dissipate nearly as rapidly as the light crude aboard the Mega Borg, and that much of the oil spilling off Texas was being consumed by fire.

Thousands of feet (metres) of oil-spill containment booms were brought in. Four coast guard cutters were in place around the tanker while two salvage-team ships sprayed water on its deck in an attempt to keep the ship cool.

Foam couldn't be used earlier because the nearest available equipment to spray it was in Louisiana, said coast guard chief petty officer Sam Wilson.

A slick about 1 mile (1.5 km) long north of the Mega Borg and one about 20 miles (32 km) long to the south were visible late Sunday. The spills were estimated to contain 7,000 gallons (26,500 litres). A plane dropped oil dispersant late Sunday.

Currents and winds were expected to push the oil toward a 150- to 200-mile (240- to 320-km) stretch of Texas coast between Freeport and Corpus Christi. But coast guard Capt. Thomas C. Greenc said the currents were expected to keep the spill from coming ashore.

Pilot was held by his legs for 15 minutes

LONDON, June 11, (AP): A British Airways pilot sucked out of his jetliner's cockpit when a windshield blew out was held by his legs for a quarter of an hour while his co-pilot made an emergency landing in southern England.

"The window popped and Tim went out like a rag doll," said stewardess Susan Prince, who helped hold onto 41-year-old Capt. Tim Lancaster after the ordeal began yesterday at 23,000 feet (7,000 metres).

Lancaster was suffering from shock, a fractured elbow, wrist and thumb, as well as frostbite in one hand. A British Airways spokesman said today he was in satisfactory condition in Southampton hospital, was able to sit up in bed and visit with his wife, Margaret, to him and he is bright and cheerful," said hospital site services manager John Walker.

Crew members said Lancaster was wearing his seat belt but had unfastened his shoulder harness after taking off from Birmingham airport in central England. He was sucked out by an immediate drop in air pressure.

Nigel Ogden, who was nearby in the forward galley, serving tea, dashed into the cockpit and grabbed the pilot's legs as he was disappearing.

Steward Simon Rogers strapped himself into the pilot's seat harness and, helped by Miss Prince, held on to the pilot as Ogden let go. Ogden's right arm had been cut by broken glass.

Rogers held the pilot for 15 minutes while other crew members calmed passengers and gave Ogden first aid.

The pilot was so far out of the left side on the windshield that when the BAC 1-11 landed in Southampton on England's south coast, fire-fighters were able to lift him through it.

Lancaster was nearly naked after his uniform was torn off and he was bleeding from being repeatedly slammed against the nose cone by the air rushing past.

Colour photographs of the air-traffic controller showed a lot of red flecks above a port window in the cockpit where Lancaster's blood had been splattered by the wind.

The twin-engine plane with six crew and 81 passengers had been airborne for 20 minutes when the accident took place. It was heading to Malaga, Spain.

Passengers in front seats said they saw the pilot hanging from the window as crew members struggled to save him and bring the aircraft down safely.

"There was a terrific bang and rush of air so strong it seemed to part my hair," said passenger David Duncan, 35, a construction worker.

"The cockpit door was blown off its hinges and I saw the near-naked pilot hanging out of the window covered in blood. Other members of the crew were hanging on to him. The passengers did not panic," Duncan said.

Co-pilot Alistair Atcheson, with Lancaster hanging outside, donned an oxygen mask put the jet into a steep dive to get below 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) where pressure drops to normal.

Thames Valley police said the windshield panel, 3 feet wide by 2-1/2 feet (1 metre by 0.7 metres) high, was found intact on a farm near Wallingford, 55 miles (88 km) west of London.

The air accidents investigation branch and British Airways were carrying out inquiries centring on the fitting of the windshield. The airline said it was a new part in its Friday as part of routine maintenance.

Six passengers were treated in hospital for shock and released. All but seven passengers continued on to Spain on another aircraft.

British Airways said all its BAC 1-11s were inspected following the incident and found to be safe.

The loss of the windshield was a "rare occurrence which will not unduly worry cockpit crews," said a spokesman for the British Air Line Pilots Association.

"The BAC-11 is one of the strongest aircraft in existence. It is tremendously robust," said Freddy Yetman, the association's technical secretary.

Procter and Gamble offices hit by rocket

ATHENS, June 11, (Reuters): A rocket hit a building housing the offices of the US firm Procter and Gamble in central Athens early today but there were no injuries, police said.

The projectile opened a 10-cm hole in the balcony of the building but did not explode. The guerrillas used a rocket launcher from a short distance, a police officer said.

The offices of Procter and Gamble, which were closed at the time, are one of the busiest streets in Athens. Police said the shot was fired from across the street.

Newcomer to fiction

Wesley tops best-seller list

TOTNES, England, June 11, (AP): Mary Wesley's mailbox is frequently filled with letters from frustrated would-be novelists.

"I get letters from people who say they've always wanted to write a book and they want to know how I did it," she says.

At 77, Wesley is a newcomer to fiction. She published the first of her seven novels when she was 70. Her latest, "A Sensible Life," topped the British best-seller list its first week of publication, and will be published in the United States this summer.

The diminutive author, dressed in navy blue sweatshirt, light blue jeans and pearl earrings, had been writing for 40 years and tearing up the pages, except for two children's books. She only started writing seriously after her husband of 25 years, journalist Eric Siepmann, died in 1970.

"My husband used to tell me I could write but I thought it was just because he loved me," she said in an interview at her timbered Elizabethan house in southwest England. "I was unhappy, very poor. Writing purged myself of the destructive desperation."

She describes writing as "a compulsion... it's companionship, but it's not always enjoyable. It can be painful and frustrating like a dog digging at a rabbit hole, when the rabbit is long gone."

A friend persuaded her to find a publisher for her first novel, "Jumping the Queue," a black comedy about a middle-aged widow on the brink of suicide. It got enthusiastic reviews and sold respectably.

"A Sensible Life" traces the life of Flora, who achieves her childhood ambition of loving three men she meets as a girl. Abandoned by her self-absorbed parents, Flora matures into a tough, confident and attractive woman and even-

tually, in middle age, she settles down with one of the three men.

Wesley captures the flavour of blacked-out wartime London, boozy weekends at country houses, a lonely child's desperation. Her description of Flora's feverish cold makes the reader snifle.

The book includes the ingredients Wesley fans have come to expect. A carefully drawn wartime setting, upper-class English characters, jaunty dialogue and racy scenes.

"People go on about sex in my books because I'm so old," Wesley said. "When I was 30 I thought that I wouldn't have sex when I was 40, and when I was 40 I thought I'd stop at 50 and so on, but sex goes on no matter how old you are."

Her plots can be complicated, but her style is simple and unadorned -- an attribute she says comes from her frugality with paper in less prosperous times. "I hate overwriting. The expense of footscap helped my writing. It made me more concise," she said.

The author denies her vivid characters are modeled on herself. But gutsy women from privileged backgrounds, unafraid to defy convention, are consistent with Wesley's persona.

Wesley, like Flora and Helena, dared to breach accepted behaviour and was divorced, as one of her characters would say, "when it was simply not done."

After the divorce, many suitors were interested, but it was Siepmann who spotted her in the Ritz Hotel and gave her unbroken happiness. Wesley still feels the loss. She often catches herself making a mental note to tell Eric something amusing she has heard.

Gardening, writing and answering fan mail fill her day.

Baby injured in Bristol bomb blast, recovers

LONDON, June 11, (UPI): A 13-month-old baby recovered today after emergency surgery for shrapnel wounds caused by a bomb apparently set by militants waging a campaign against experiments on animals, officials said.

Police admitted they had made a mistake by not acting on a tipoff about 24 hours before the yesterday afternoon blast in Bristol, 120 miles west of London.

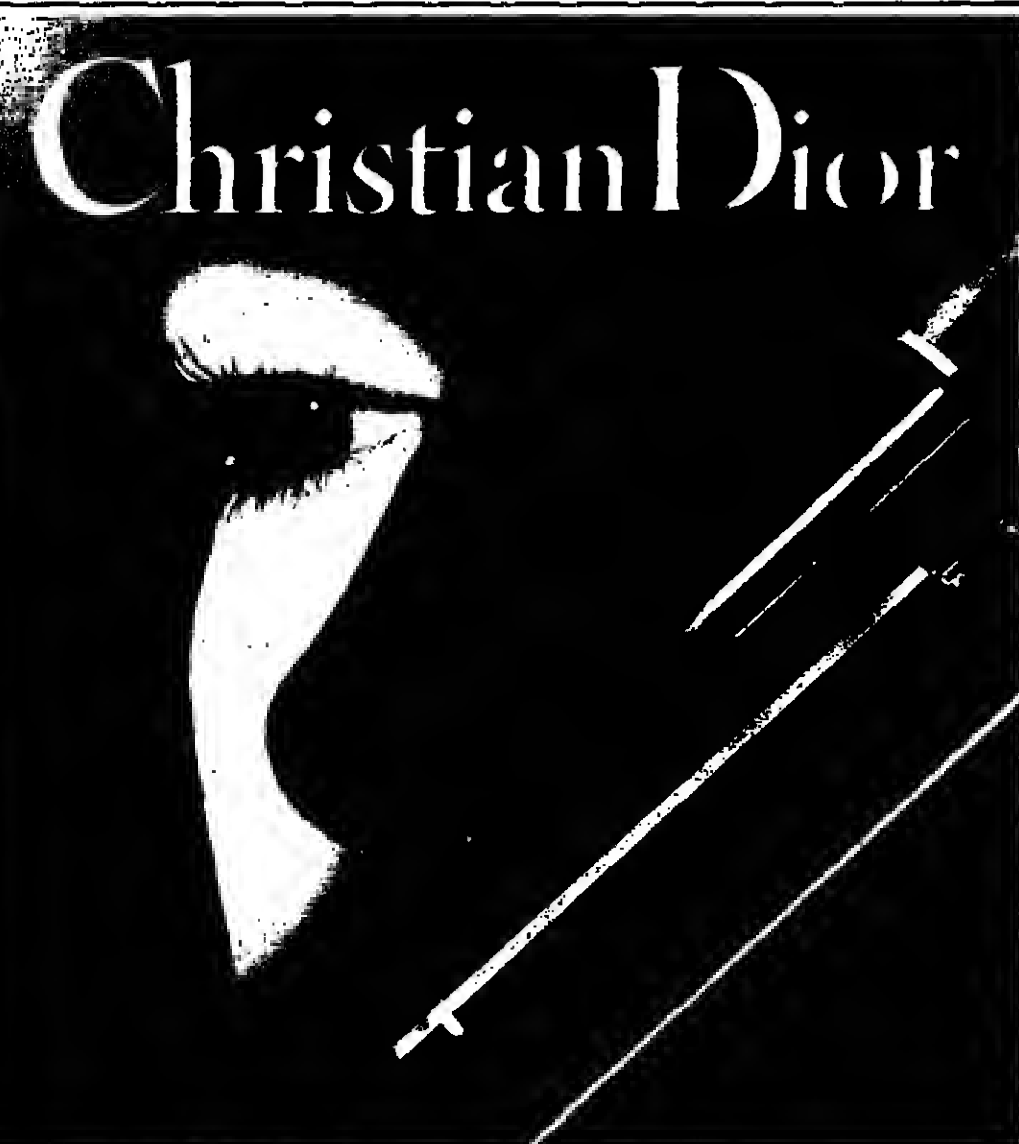
There were no claims of responsibility for the attack, but it bore similarity to a bombing last Wednesday which wounded the wife of a scientist who conducts research on animals. That assault was claimed by the radicals, who

hope to halt experiments which they believe inflict undue cruelty on animals.

Officials said the Bristol bomb detonated beneath the front passenger seat of a car driven by Patrick Headley, a psychologist whose work at Bristol University involves research on animals.

Headley miraculously escaped injury in the blast, which punched a two-foot-wide hole in his vehicle from the device made of plastic explosives.

A spray of shrapnel hit a pram being pushed along the adjacent pavement, wounding a 13-month-old baby, John Copper.



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INTERNATIONAL

Liberian leader's resignation ruled out

8 killed as Doe's men leave for talks

MONROVIA, Liberia, June 11, (AP): Eight more butchered bodies were found in this terror-filled city today as government ministers and religious leaders departed to meet rebel leaders for peace talks in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

The head of the Liberian government delegation expressed optimism about peace prospects but ruled out President Samuel Doe's resignation.

Baptist Church officials said the bodies were identified as university professor Van Richard and seven of his relatives, all descendants of the freed American slaves who founded this West African nation.

"It is absolutely appalling, absolutely appalling. These are things that the government obviously is appalled by," Justice Minister Jenkins Scott told the Associated Press.

He spoke before he boarded a chartered flight with two other cabinet ministers and senate president Tambakai Jangbar to attend peace talks scheduled to take place at the US embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The rebels trying to oust the government of President Samuel Doe control most of Liberia, a country of 2.5 million people. The 5-1/2-month-old civil war has left more than 1,000 dead.

About 100 Christians stopped traffic in the capital's downtown Ashmun Street with a peace march today.

Afraid

"We could have been 3,000 or 4,000, but people are afraid for their lives," the Rev. David Daniels of the African Methodist Episcopal Church told demonstrators. He is chairman of a new organisation called Christians United for Peace.

"God does not like it when a man's head is cut off. We all want to take up in the morning not afraid our necks will be chopped off," Daniels said in an appeal for an end to tribal killings.

"God does not like these killings, whether they are of Gios, Krahn, Mandingos, Manos, Congos or whatever," he said.

He spoke as people gathered at the Providence Baptist Church, President Samuel Doe's place of worship, to pray for peace and success at the talks to negotiate a ceasefire.

Government soldiers and rebels continued to battle at the US-managed Firestone rubber plantation 35 miles (56 kms) from Monrovia, despite the announcement of peace talks.

People who fled the fighting to the capital said there was heavy fighting in the rubber plantation's Harbel Company town and around Robertsfield International Airport. Robertsfield, the main international airport, has been closed since last Monday when airlines stopped flying there as rebels advanced.

However, Scott said in an interview today that a Ghana Airways flight sent to evacuate some 380 Ghanaians on Sunday landed at Robertsfield.

"They phoned me from the airport and had to take off and come to Spriggs Payne (airport in the city) because there were no ground staff to help them," Scott said.

Control

Witnesses who fled the fighting said it was not clear who had control of the airport, Harbel or other parts of the plantation.

Diplomatic and official sources said the overnight killings in Monrovia did not bode well for the talks.

But Jangbar, the government delegation leader, said: "We are very optimistic... and understand the urgent need in reacting to the needs of our people, especially the need to stop further bloodshed."

He said he hoped to help negotiate a ceasefire leading to a peace conference. "We are very optimistic that the other side will be responsive and we will all make very reasonable compromises," he said before leaving.

But Jangbar said he could not accept rebel leader Charles Taylor's demand that Doe resign.

Rebellion

"We think the resignation of President Doe at this time is not only not legal but not a very practical thing for the stability of this country," he said. "We think he has made a very conciliatory gesture in terms of offering not to run for another term... and that that clears the way for everyone to sit down and discuss arrangements in order to usher in a ceasefire and a new government."

The rebellion that began with an invasion from neighbouring Ivory Coast on Dec 24 has escalated into a tribal war.



Taylor lifts his arms in victory as he and armed fighters rejoice after retaking the town of Buchanan in a picture taken June 6. (Reuters wirephoto)



Rebels belonging to Taylor's group pose in the streets of Buchanan in a picture taken June 6 after rebel forces retook the town. At left, rear, an armed rebel kicks a soccer ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Protest in Kwangju

Kim for peaceful reunification

SEOUL, June 11, (AP): Hundreds of radical students, shouting "Yankies go home," clashed with police today in Kwangju to protest the reopening of a US cultural centre that has been repeatedly attacked, news reports said.

About 500 students hurled rocks and firebombs at riot police as they tried to march into the streets of the southern city after an anti-US rally on the

campus of Chosun University, the Yonhap news agency said.

About 800 riot police blocked the university's main gate and fired tear-gas barrages each time the demonstrators charged out of the campus, it said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests in the two-hour clash in Kwangju, about 250 kms (155 miles) south of Seoul.

Im, Moon jail terms cut



Im shown bound and handcuffed being led to the Seoul High Court yesterday for the final hearing of her appeals. (Reuters wirephoto)

SEOUL, June 11, (UPI): The Seoul appellate court commuted sentences of 10 and eight years to five-year imprisonment today for two dissidents convicted of making unauthorised visits to North Korea.

A three-judge panel of the court, ruling on appeals by the two defendants — Miss Im Suk-kyong and the Rev Moon Kyu-Hyun — also suspended their civil rights for as many years.

Presiding Judge Song Jae-Hun, handing down the ruling, said Im, a dissident woman student, and the Catholic priest were guilty of violating the national security law which forbids communicating and visiting with North Koreans without government approval.

"The defendants secretly visited North Korea in disregard of public opinion and solely out of their dogmatic beliefs, thereby causing damage to the basic order of liberal democracy (of the nation)," the judge said.

about reunification, North Korean official media reported today.

The report came one week after South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met in San Francisco at a summit that was severely criticised by North Korean media.

FAO report

Africa can feed

NAIROBI, June 11, (Reuters): Farmers in Africa could feed millions more people if they took better care of their land, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said today.

But poor farmers needed to see immediate rewards in higher yields or less work before they could be persuaded to adopt new and environment-friendly cultivation methods, it said.

"There are already successful examples of this approach," the FAO said in a report published to coincide with a conference on food and agriculture in Morocco

this week. Kenyan farmers enthusiastically built terraces, which trap fertile soil which would otherwise be washed or blown away, when it was shown they could get higher yields of maize and beans.

In densely-populated Rwanda, the government was training smallholders to stall-feed livestock to provide fertiliser and increase crop production.

But the FAO said African farmers, governments and international organisations should step up long-term efforts to meet the growing demand for food.

Thai defence chief resigns suddenly

Prices plunge on securities exchange

BANGKOK, June 11, (Reuters): Thai Defence Minister General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh resigned suddenly on Monday, threatening a government crisis and prompting a rash of rumours over possible military intervention.

Political sources said Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan was considering his political options after the powerful military closed ranks behind its former commander, who only joined the six-party coalition cabinet in late March.

The sources said Chatichai flew to the town of Hua Hin on the Gulf of

Thailand during the evening to consult with King Bhumibol Adulyadej and explain to him the events of the day.

They said he still planned to leave as scheduled later for an eight-day visit to the United States, US diplomats said they had no word from Chatichai that he might put the visit off.

Chatichai's spokesman said the visit could be put off by one day if necessary. He has a meeting fixed with President George Bush on June 14.

LDP fails to turn the table

TOKYO, June 11, (Reuters): Japan's ruling party, chafing at the opposition's stranglehold on the upper house of Parliament, lost a golden opportunity to turn the tables by failing to win a crucial by-election at the weekend.

Though the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) spent lavishly and sent in a bevy of ministerial stars to campaign, the opposition socialists easily fought off the challenge to retain the Fukushima seat vacated by the death of their representative.

Had the LDP won, political analysts said, they would have been well placed to form an alliance with smaller non-socialist opposition parties and wrest back control of the House of Councillors.

Sunday's loss heralds difficulties for the government in pushing key legislation through Parliament. A hostile majority in the chamber can block all bills except the national budget.

"I'm treating the result seriously," Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said today, after acknowledging defeat in the election.

Kaifu, the most popular premier on record, according to a recent opinion poll, travelled three times to the southern city to woo support for LDP candidate Norihiko Sumiyoshi.

Under Kaifu, the ruling party won a crucial lower house election in February, just seven months after losing its upper house majority for the first time since 1955.

This time his magic touch failed. Sumiyoshi trailed socialist candidate Shigeo Mieno by 120,000 votes.

The Fukushima election showed that support for the socialists, the largest opposition group, was still intact, said Rei Shiratori, Tokai University professor of political science.

"After the July 1989 Upper House election, (voter) support swung back to the LDP (for the February general election). But this result shows there is still very strong support for the Socialists."

He predicted difficult times ahead for the ruling party, which is 16 seats short of a majority in the 252-seat upper chamber.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Japan in September to discuss the territorial dispute that has kept Japan and the Soviet Union at arms length for over four decades, officials said today.

Many Japanese believe that the meeting between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo last week brings the hope of an international detente in Asia and forces Japan to reduce weaponry.



Chavalit shown in a file photo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Key player

Chavalit

BANGKOK, June 11, (Reuters): General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh has been an orchestrator of Thailand's domestic and foreign policy both in military uniform and in the politician's suit he donned less than three months ago.

His sudden resignation today as deputy premier and defence minister is unlikely to mean the ambitious former army chief will fade away.

When he was armed forces supreme commander, General Chavalit, 58, wielded the political power traditionally enjoyed by Thai military chiefs while at the same time stressing a vision of a democratic country in which soldiers no longer held sway over civilian rule.

He has also attacked corruption among politicians and businessmen as a fatal flaw in Thai society.

His resignation was prompted by accusations that he does not always practice what he preaches.

When he moved straight into high office after stepping down as military commander in March this year, an editorial in the nation newspaper questioned if this was democratic.

Deputy Interior Minister Trairong Suwankiri last week challenged him to test his popularity by standing in a by-election. Opponents charged that while he criticised civilian corruption, he had been unable to clean up graft in the army.

After Chavalit said that corrupt politicians and their relatives should have their heads chopped off, politician Chalerm Yoobamrung said the general's family could be among the first victims.

Chalerm last week accused the general's wife of being a "walking jewellery box."

The public mudslinging climaxed in Chavalit's resignation but not before the military had risen to his defence.

Chavalit built his reputation on a successful "hearts and minds" campaign that suppressed the Thai communist insurgency of the 1970s and early 1980s and brought the guerrillas out of the jungle.

In the 1960s, he was operations and training officer for Thai troops fighting with the US-backed forces in South Vietnam.

He took over as army commander in 1986 when his mentor Prem Tinsulanonda dismissed the brash general Arthit Kamlang.

Chavalit concentrated on unifying the army and stopping officer cliques from meddling in politics. The armed forces retained an important say but it spoke with a single voice — Chavalit's.

He has written voluminously on the need for a country that has seen 15 military coups or attempted coups in 58 years to complete a democratic revolution.

The spokesman played down the situation and said Chavalit "thinks it's a little matter which could be resolved soon."

Chavalit, 58, resigned after a build-up of tension following thinly veiled accusations of corruption against him and his wife by an outspoken member of the coalition.

The resignation shook the fast-developing country's business community. Prices plunged on the Securities Exchange of Thailand, with the main index falling about 40 points, or four per cent.

Some businessmen believed Chatichai might be forced to reshuffle his coalition government or even call a general election.

In a country which has seen 15 coups and coup attempts since 1932, most diplomats and politicians still harbour misgivings about the firmness of democracy.

The last, unsuccessful, coup attempt was in 1985 and Thai officials said Western diplomats believe civilian democratic institutions have since grown more stable.

Thousands of soldiers in bases in the capital and elsewhere staged rallies during the day declaring their support for Chavalit and some threatened to respond to his detractors.

The crisis blew up out of remarks by two outspoken politicians in the last week while Chavalit was attending Cambodian peace talks in Tokyo.

Chalerm Yoobamrung, a sharp-tongued former police captain who leads a small party in Chatichai's ruling coalition, revived his long-running and often veiled attacks against Chavalit for alleged corruption.

Although avoiding the use of names, he called the general's wife, Khunying Pankrue, a "walking jewellery box". She responded by calling him a moron.

Another politician, Deputy Interior Minister Trairong Suwankiri, challenged Chavalit to stand in a by-election and suggested it was easier to become an army officer than a politician.

Such jibes are taken extremely seriously in Thailand's fledgling democracy. The military often shows extreme sensitivity at slights to its self-esteem.

Lieutenant-General Pailoon Hongsilak, commander of the second army responsible for northeastern Thailand, said: "We cannot stand for such insults and I will retaliate immediately. If they still do not stop, I cannot guarantee what will happen next."

In a two-paragraph statement read on the army-controlled Channel Five television station, Chavalit gave no explicit reason for his decision.

"Considering the present circumstances I have decided that I cannot join you to solve national problems as I had planned to do. I therefore decided to resign," it said.

Chatichai's six-party coalition has itself come under increasing pressure from corruption charges and is due to face a no-confidence motion after the prime minister's return from Washington.

Chavalit's successor as army commander, General Suchinda Krapayoon, cut short a visit to Singapore and Brunei to return home.

Senior military officers warned that they took the attacks on Chavalit as an insult to the entire army.

Mandela meets West German leaders

White miner held for bombing black union office

BONN, June 11, (AP): South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, on the second week of a gruelling 14-nation tour, met today with the leader of the West German opposition Social Democratic Party in Bonn.

Later in the day, Mandela was scheduled to meet with members of the government coalition parties, the Christian Democratic Union and the Free Democratic Party, as well as government officials and members of the business community.

On Tuesday he is due to hold talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, both of whom had met with South African President

Frederik de Klerk when he visited Europe last month.

This morning, Mandela — who is deputy president of the anti-apartheid African National Congress — held talks with SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel.

Mandela, 71, arrived in Bonn last night, on the second week of a gruelling six-week, 14-nation world tour to whip up support for a campaign to continue imposing economic sanctions against South Africa until the black majority achieves full rights.

Mandela has already visited Botswana, France and Switzerland and is scheduled to

fly back to France Wednesday, then to Italy, Canada and the United States. After that he returns to Europe to visit Britain and Ireland and flies home via the African states of Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Mozambique.

In South Africa, police arrested a white gold miner today in connection with the bombing of the offices of a black miners' union in Welkom, a town at the centre of South Africa's racial conflict.

A statement said they had detained a 30-year-old mine foreman and seized a cache of commercial explosives following the blast at the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) on Saturday night.



Mandela shown during a meeting in Bonn June 11. (Reuters wirephoto)



Burn the communist banner

Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) supporters burn a communist banner June 11 in front of the National Assembly in central Sofia one day after the first free Bulgarian elections in four decades. (Reuters wirephoto)

Former communists heading for victory

Bulgarian protesters shout 'fraud'

SOFIA, Bulgaria, June 11, (AP): The ruling former communists who initiated reform in Bulgaria were headed for victory in the first free elections in decades, according to initial projections.

But opposition leaders claimed today there was some wrongdoing. Hundreds of their supporters demonstrated through the night outside election headquarters against the ruling Socialist Party, formerly the Communist Party.

More than 2,000 protesters filled the square in front of the parliament building today morning, shouting "fraud" and calling for a general

strike. The building was cordoned off by police as the crowd appeared to be growing.

Separate projections by Bulgarian and West German groups gave the Socialist Party about 48 per cent of the vote compared to between 33-35 per cent for the main opposition alliance, the Union of Democratic Forces.

Official results from Bulgaria's first free election in 58 years were not expected before Tuesday.

Free elections in East Europe

Final curtain drops

PRAGUE, June 11, (Reuters): Free elections in Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria over the past week mark the end of the "East Bloc" allowing each of its former members to adopt its own profile on the world stage.

The two countries were the last of the six non-Soviet Warsaw Pact states to vote in competitive polls in the past year after more than four decades of total control by communist parties which brooked no opposition.

In Poland, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia the communists have been ousted from power, or reduced to a minority role in government.

The Balkan end of the bloc has not entirely rejected the communist legacy. In Romania, many leading figures in the ruling National Salvation Front are former communists, while in Bulgaria, where election results are still coming in, the ex-communist Socialist Party may actually win.

One thing is certain: the idea of Eastern Europe as a grey group of barely distinguishable countries run by carbon copies of the Soviet Communist Party and voting together in support of Soviet rather than national interests, has gone for good.

Moscow made clear last year it no longer wanted this type of relationship with its allies and would not intervene to keep brother communist parties in power. From then on, the days of communist rule in Eastern Europe were numbered.

One rapid result, perhaps not fully foreseen by the Kremlin, was the collapse of the Warsaw



Polcar opens the proceedings of the first session of Parliament in Bucharest June 9. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pact as an anti-Western military alliance.

A pact summit in Moscow last week agreed to turn it into "an alliance of sovereign and equal states resting on democratic principles." Hungary wants to leave by next year and the membership of East Germany, expected to merge soon with West Germany, is also in doubt.

The Soviet-led Comecon trading bloc, grouping 10 centrally planned economies, is also in crisis as the East Europeans move towards market systems. A summit in Sofia last January attempted to adapt the grouping to the new conditions.

With the old East European structures in disarray and home-

grown political parties now in control, the countries of the former bloc — except for East Germany — face the problem of how to strike out on their own in their brave new world.

All face mammoth economic problems resulting from 40 years of almost total state control, ranging from crippling foreign debt, as in Poland and Hungary, to a grossly distorted economic structure, as in Romania.

Some, like Romania, Bulgaria and, to a lesser extent Czechoslovakia, have ethnic minority problems which were suppressed under the communists but are now coming out into the open. Romanians and ethnic Hungarians clashed in Romania last March.

The countries also have to carve out new foreign policies. Most would like to join the European Economic Community.

Poland is worried about German unification but countries further from Germany are less bothered. Hungary and Czechoslovakia are getting together with Yugoslavia, Austria and Italy in a new Alpine-Adriatic regional grouping.

Western observers say that in their internal politics too, most of the East European countries still have some road to travel before they achieve fully developed systems.

The communists have retained a foothold in a free electoral system, polling 15 per cent in East Germany last March, 13.5 per cent — second place — in Czechoslovakia, and apparently leading the field in Bulgaria.

According to a forecast by the West German polling institute Infas, the UDF was considerably stronger than the socialists in the capital, where it was projected to receive some 55 per cent of the vote against 38 per cent for the socialists. However, the UDF lagged behind in other parts of the country.

Prior to Sunday's voting, analysts projected that the UDF would have a tough time defeating the socialists in the countryside, saying that villagers and industrial workers are afraid of radical change and are easily influenced by a ruling party that represents stability for many.

The Infas forecast published by state media, gave 48.8 per cent of the vote to the socialists against 33.7 per cent for the UDF.

The Agrarian Party received 8.2 per cent according to the projection and the mainly ethnic Turkish movement for rights and freedoms 6.6 per cent.

The Infas projection, with a 2 per cent margin of error, was based on three-quarters of the votes counted in 250 polling districts for 200 of the 400 seats in Parliament.

These are to be allocated on the basis of proportional representation, according to the percentage of votes that each party receives. The other 200 seats go to candidates who receive more than 50 per cent of the vote in direct balloting.

A runoff is scheduled on June 17 in those constituencies where no individual candidate received the necessary majority.

The secretary of the Central Electoral Commission, Dimitar Popov, said that according to the first and only official results so far available the UDF won 11 seats in direct balloting, the socialists 10, and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms 2, the state BTA News Agency reported. He said that in 13 other polling districts a runoff would be necessary, BTA said.

"The local government's main goal is to feed and clothe their people," a Western diplomat said.

Not all of the settlers moved here voluntarily. "Some of them were not happy with having to move away from their ancestral homes," the diplomat said.

Many complained that they were being moved from one wasteland to another, he said. Foreign residents living near Yinchuan said that some were unwilling to move because they were more heavily subsidised in their old villages.

One third of Ningxia's 4.5 million people are Hui Muslims, many of whose forebears were Persian and Arab merchants.

Officials described the earlier arrivals as a success story.

Here are four or five years, they have managed through stubborn resistance to plant wheat where once there was nothing but sand.

They put in irrigation networks, diverting water from the Yellow River, and planted trees to hold back the soil. The result is a remarkable tableau of green interspersed with the desert which waits to encroach.

The worst-off pioneers tend to be the ones who arrived most recently, officials said.

Maiziere invited to Washington

WASHINGTON, June 11, (UPI): In a sign of just how much the postwar political order has changed, Lothar de Maiziere was invited today where no East German prime minister had been welcomed in 40 years of cold war: the White House.

President George Bush ordered the red carpet rolled out as De Maiziere, at two months into office the first East German leader to visit the White House and perhaps the last, prepared to meet with American political and business leaders on the rapid

movement toward a unified Germany, and an undivided Europe.

"It's just one more step that demonstrated the magnificent changes that have taken place over the past year," Bush said Friday. "So he will be well received here in the White House."

Speaking to reporters yesterday after a round of golf, Bush said he looked forward to "a good meeting" and a lot of discussion of De Maiziere's vision of "post-German-unification Europe."

Topping the agenda of the talks De

Maiziere will hold with Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and members of Congress, were the future military status of a unified Germany and how to persuade the Soviets to accept its membership in Nato.

With East and West Germany scheduled to enter into an economic, monetary and social union July 2, their discussions also were to touch on the still uncertain timetable for political integration and all-German elections.

'Further overhaul of ties needed'

WEST BERLIN, June 11, (AP): West Germany's foreign minister said today that Nato and the Warsaw Pact will have to seek "friendship and co-operation" to break the impasse over a united Germany's military status.

In Washington, East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere planned to give US President George Bush a Soviet-backed plan to resolve the stalemate, a prominent newspaper reported.

According to the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, the East German prime minister was carrying with him a Gorbachev-sponsored plan that would let a united Germany belong to Nato. In return, the Soviet Union wanted assurance Nato would transform itself into a political alliance, the newspaper said, quoting what it said were people in De Maiziere's "innermost circle."

But the report brought a denial from De Maiziere during his stop in New York. De Maiziere was scheduled to meet with Bush later today.

For weeks, both Washington and Moscow have been at an impasse over whether a united Germany can belong to Nato.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has threatened to review his military strategy if the merged countries join the Western alliance.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher spelled out what would amount to a further major overhaul of East-West relations to resolve the problem.

Genscher, in an interview with *Deutschlandfunk* radio of Cologne, called for "denuclearising East-West relations" and scrapping the traditional notions that both sides are facing an enemy.

He also called for both alliances to "extend a hand in friendship and co-operation."

The West German foreign minister met with his Kremlin counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, later today in the Soviet town of Brest near the Polish border. "The right of Germans to live in a united country is indisputable," the Soviet official news agency Tass said in reporting on Genscher's visit. "But the Soviet people's sensitive attitude to the German problem is also clear and understandable."

During recent trips to Canada and the United States, Gorbachev several times pointed out that in the two world wars with Germany, 27 million Soviets died.

"The need for real guarantees of non-violation of the strategic stability in Europe is absolutely clear," Tass said. "The creation of such guarantees is closely linked with the European process, the system of stability and security, and the change of the structure of blocs on the continent."

The Soviet-led Warsaw Pact already is undergoing major changes that are designed to loosen Moscow's grip on its allies.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation members also have been seeking to revamp their policy toward Eastern Europe, where democracy is rapidly replacing four decades of harsh Stalinism.

While East Germany has been following West Germany's lead on many issues, the democratically elected government in East Berlin has warned against pushing the united country into Nato in the alliance's current form.

New premier soon

Calfa likely to get job

PRAGUE, June 11, (AP): President Vaclav Havel will appoint a new premier within days, and probably will give the job to the incumbent, former communist Marian Calfa, Havel's spokesman said today.

The movements that led the revolution against communism — Havel's Civic Forum and its sister group public against violence — won a resounding victory on Friday and Saturday in the first free elections in 44 years.

Official results showed Civic Forum and its ally

won 46 per cent of the vote for the federal parliament, and were projected to get 169 of its 300 seats under a complex system of vote allocation.

Final seat totals will not be known until Wednesday.

Despite their strong showing, the two movements had said before the elections they would seek a coalition government — in keeping with Havel's insistence on consensus and the style of the "government of national understanding" forged during the revolution.



Havel (left) welcomes Calfa prior to their talks at Lany Castle June 10. (Reuters wirephoto)

The likely coalition partners appeared to be the Christian Democrat Union, which finished third and was expected to win 40 seats and about 12 per cent of the vote when the tally is finished.

Both the Christian Democrats and Civic Forum have ruled out a formal parliamentary coalition with the communists, who finished a surprisingly strong second with about 13 per cent of the vote and a projected 48 seats.

Civic Forum campaign managers also ruled out the inclusion of any communists, even respected experts in their fields, in the new government. Three parties representing Slovak nationalists, Moravians from the central Czech region and the Hungarian minority in Slovakia were the only other parties to win seats in the federal parliament.

China changing

Liu longs for home

NEW YORK, June 11, (AP): Liu Binyan, one of China's most famous writers, wants to end his exile. He says change is coming in his homeland, and he wants to see it.

But Liu says he'll go back only if he's assured he won't be arrested. That assurance, he speculates, could take two years.

Liu, who was expelled from the Chinese Communist Party in 1987, has been a visiting scholar in the United States since March 1988. In China, Liu's name is virtually a household word because of his exposes of corruption and his tales of people who risked retaliation to expose it. Those articles earned Liu the nickname "Liu Qingdian," Bao Qingdian, who was legendary for his fights against injustice during the Sung dynasty that ended in the 13th century.

Now 65, Liu says he longs for a chance to go back to China. He and his wife, Zhu Hong, say they miss their two children and two grandsons in Beijing.

But they also miss China itself. Liu writes in his autobiography, "A Higher Kind of Loyalty," that he is "Chinese to the marrow of my bones," and that the United States for him is an "alien land."

"This is a very important time in China," Liu said in an interview. "I want to go back and experience everything myself, even if I can't write about it."

A tall man with greying hair, Liu is softspoken and quick to smile, and eager to talk about what he sees as China's strengths and weaknesses. Zhu, whom Liu has called his "guardian angel" because of her steadfastness through hardships in their four decades of marriage, sat beside Liu during the interview, offering her own assessments. Fluent in English, she accompanies her husband on his talks and interviews as a translator.

Liu has spent the last year lecturing at some 40 US universities and writing his autobiography, which has just been published in English. The title, "A Higher Kind of Loyalty," refers to his idea that a loyal citizen should expose corruption for the good of the Communist Party and the country. This kind of loyalty, he explains, is higher than the kind that submits to party discipline when initiative and criticism are needed instead.

Liu started writing about corruption in the 1950s while he was a young Communist Party member and newspaper reporter.

In his articles, Liu wrote in his book, he "tried to prove that those who were criticising social evils were not hostile to the party or the society, but were motivated by a deep love of both."

Nevertheless, Liu was attacked in the anti-rightist campaign of 1957-58, expelled from the party and sent to do manual labour in the countryside on and off for 13 years. He also did menial work in Beijing, including carrying human waste to a farm for fertilizer.

Self-taught in Russian and Japanese, Liu took what time he could to read Tolstoy and other authors in Russian and to pore over an English-Japanese dictionary. But in his autobiography he also tells of separation from his family and being so weakened by hunger that he was reduced to stealing unripened tomatoes.

The party cleared Liu's name in 1979, and he rejoined. He also went to work as a reporter for the party's newspaper, the People's Daily, travelling around the country and writing about cases of corruption once again after 22 years.

"For 22 years I was labelled a 'rightist.' Compared to those who were hounded to death, were sentenced to long jail terms, or saw their families broken up, I was lucky," he wrote in his autobiography. "The greatest damage done to me was the loss of 22 years of my life and the psychological scar left by prolonged humiliation."

In 1987 Liu was accused of supporting "bourgeois liberalisation," or Western ideas, following student demonstrations in the winter of 1986-87. The party expelled him again.

In 1988, he managed to leave China to become a visiting scholar in the United States. He has been at the University of California at Los Angeles, Harvard University and Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Burma: no sign of junta leaving

BANGKOK, June 11, (Reuters): There are no signs of talks on a transfer of power to the main Burmese opposition party, which the country's military government has officially declared the winner of a majority in Parliament in May 27 general elections.

Diplomats in Rangoon said today there had been no signs of talks on ending 28 years of military control.

The state-run media at the weekend that, with results still incomplete, the National League for Democracy had won 251 seats, ensuring it a majority in the 492-seat Parliament.

The diplomats, contacted by telephone from Bangkok, said the Democracy League had won its 251 even though fewer than 300 results had been officially announced so far. Unofficial estimates had the League winning more than 400 seats, they said.

The other officially announced seats were shared among smaller parties, including the National Unity Party, the political successor to the Burma Socialist Programme Party, which held a monopoly of power for a quarter century following a 1962 military takeover.

Euphoria

"It's rather a quiet euphoria in the streets. The impression from the SLoRC (the ruling state law and order restoration council) is that nothing has happened at all. The papers are still reporting them inspecting construction sites, which is exactly what they were doing before," a diplomat said.

Diplomats said there had been no sign of any contact between the two so far, including on the crucial issue of the release of political detainees.

The League's secretary-general Aung San Suu Kyi, the driving figure in the party and the heroine of the streets in the 1988 pro-democracy uprising, has been under house arrest for nearly a year and many League members are in jail.

Complaints

The military council has announced that people may file complaints about election misconduct to the director-general of the Supreme Court, diplomats said.

Student leaders today called for the newly elected parliament to take power from the military this month now that the opposition election victory is official.

The executive committee of the victorious National League for Democracy (NLD) held further meetings, but gave no indication it was ready to start pressing the military to hand over power.

Transplanted poor strive to make Ningxia bloom

China's first voluntary 'transmigratory' programme to relocate Huis

YINCHUAN, China, June 11, (Reuters): The remote region of Ningxia, most of it desert, has been a byword in China for abject poverty.

Seen from the air, the approach to the regional capital Yinchuan is a moonscape of sandy wasteland.

But a few thousand pioneers, refugees from the impoverished southern counties of this northwestern land, are part of a six-year-old experiment to make the desert bloom.

"They were so poor that one truck was able to carry the belongings of eight families. One family literally carried just a quilt and their rice bowls," said Ibrahim

Ma Yilin, who works in Yinchuan's Ministry of Affairs Bureau.

Nearly all of the migrants belong to the Muslim Hui minority group.

The government organised their removal 500 km (310 miles) north to the desert outskirts of Yinchuan under what authorities said is a voluntary programme.

The transmigratory programme, begun in later 1984, is the first of its kind in China. Since it started, 60,000 migrants have moved from southern Ningxia's dirt-poor Jingyuan county to six areas, including the Yinchuan site. The government wants to relocate 250,000 Huis by the end of the decade.



A group of migrant settlers from the Hui minority gather in front of a desert home in the barren region of Ningxia in the western part of China. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arrested

Man charged in booker killing: Homicide detectives arrested a 21-year-old Arlington man and charged him in the slaying of one of seven Washington-area prostitutes killed in the past 13 months, police said Monday.

The suspect was identified as Chander Matta, who was arrested Sunday evening at his modest Arlington home just a few miles from the capital.

Police declined to give additional details, but said Matta was suspected of killing Sherry Larmann, 26, whose partially-chained body was found atop a four-story Arlington garage on May 26. (UPI)

Animal rights milestone: The mobilisation of thousands of people to march for animals marks a milestone in the animal rights movement, activists say.

"There is no question we are making progress," organiser Tom Regan said Sunday after a rally which featured celebrities such as singer Grace Slick and "Superman" movie star Christopher Reeve.

Regan, a professor of philosophy at North Carolina State University, said the animal rights movement is one that advocates lifestyle changes. Regan, for instance, does not eat meat. (AP)

Americans favour supercop: Seven in 10 Americans say they would ban disposable diapers to protect the environment, and even more would outlaw the plastic foam flimsies of fast-food restaurants, a survey found in New York.

The Media General-Associated Press survey found that most Americans want to elect statewide supercop to take on polluters. And they favour prohibiting cancer-causing pesticides and excessive product packaging.

The poll found strong support for an array of other strict environmental laws. Of those who live in neighbourhoods where recycling is not mandatory, nine in 10 supported such a requirement. (AP)

Lava destroys last home: Lava from Kilauea volcano destroyed the last home still standing in Kalapana village Sunday and threatened 17 nearby homes, civil defence authorities said.

The multi-story home claimed the home in the village area at 8 am, civil defence spokesman Larry Nakano said.

The only dwellings remaining in the once-thriving Kalapana area are nine homes in the Kalapana home area inland, and eight in the Kalapana gardens housing area in the west of the village site.

Lava continued to pour into the ocean behind the former site of the painted church, along a front that had broadened considerably along the southeast coast of the island of Hawaii. (UPI)

HK turns away refugees: A group of 17 Vietnamese boat people sailed for Thailand Monday after Hong Kong refused to allow the refugees to land because the British colony was not their first port of call.

The boat people, who were rescued by a Taiwanese ship about a month ago when their craft sank off southern Taiwan, first sought refuge in Taiwan but were refused.

"Under the comprehensive plan of action there is an agreement in place that says rescue cases should be landed at the first port of call," said Mike Hanson, Hong Kong's refugee coordinator. In this particular case Hong Kong was not the first port of call, Taiwan was. (UPI)

Hun Sen warns Cambodians: Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-backed government in Cambodia has warned his people to prepare for more war despite the signing of a ceasefire agreement earlier this month.

In a "message to the people of Cambodia" carried by Phnom Penh radio Sunday night, Hun Sen said the ceasefire would not take effect until the still unscheduled meeting of a supreme national council that is to include representatives of both sides in the 11-year-old conflict.

"We will continue our struggle to protect the people until a ceasefire goes into effect," he said. He said that did not mean his government wanted the war to continue. (UPI)

Washington wrong, Dalai Lama: The Bush administration was wrong if it thought the situation in China had returned to normal after last year's crackdown on democracy demonstrators, the Dalai Lama said in an interview published Sunday.

"If the administration really thinks that things in Beijing—or the situation in Tibet—are normal, if they look on the lifting of martial law as a sign of improvement, then that is wrong. Actually, in Beijing itself, or in Lhasa, the situation is very tense," he said.

The Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual and political leader of Tibet, made his remarks in a Rome interview published in the current edition of Newsweek. (Reuters)

Kaifu meets with Ghali: Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Monday had talks with visiting Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Boutros Ghali on matters of common interest.

Kaifu learned that Ghali, during the meeting, conveyed a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The Egyptian embassy source said that Ghali briefed Kaifu on the latest developments on the Middle East and African arena. (KUNA)

China slashes admissions: China slashed university admissions by 40,000 students during last year's crackdown on the student-led democracy movement, 10,000 more than publicly announced, the official press disclosed Monday.

But while the official English-language China



Thatcher in Armenia

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher acknowledges the crowd during a short visit to the Armenian city of Leninakan June 10. Thatcher later attended the opening of a school funded by the British. (Reuters wirephoto)

Talks fail

Serbians plan mass protest

BELGRADE, June 11. (Reuters): Opposition leaders in Yugoslavia's biggest republic, Serbia, announced plans today for a mass rally in protest of talks with communist leaders.

Leaders of the five main opposition groups in Serbia told a news conference they hoped that more than 100,000 people would take part in the protest in Belgrade's central Trg Republike (republic square) on Wednesday.

Free multi-party elections were held in the republic of Slovenia and Croatia in April and Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic has said that elections for the federal Parliament will be held by the end of the year.

But Serbia has been reluctant to implement pluralistic reforms and Serbian officials have said that free elections in the republic will not be held until next year.

"Serbian communists are trying to keep Bolshevism alive and are trying by various methods to stay in power," Vuk Draskovic, leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, told reporters.

"(Serbia) is becoming the last bastion of a system which has collapsed from the Kremlin westwards."

daily reported that university officials have begun a slow process of restoring enrollment to pre-crackdown levels, the figures cited are far below official targets announced two years earlier.

China's more than 1,000 universities and colleges were scheduled to take in 620,000 students this autumn, an increase of 20,000 over last year's enrollment, the newspaper said. (UPI)

Quake jolts Tarutung: A series of earthquakes jolted Tarutung in north Sumatra over the weekend, but no casualties or damage was reported, the official Antara news agency said Monday.

The first and strongest quake, measuring 4.2 on the open-ended Richter scale, hit for about 10 seconds at 3:41 pm (0941 GMT) Saturday, it reported.

By Sunday morning, at least nine aftershocks had hit Tarutung, some 1,215 kilometres (760 miles) northwest of Jakarta, it added.

It quoted Hidayat of the local meteorological agency in north Sumatra's provincial capital of Medan as placing the quakes' epicentre about 60 kilometres (37 miles) west of Tarutung, or 67 kilometres (42 miles) southwest of Pangep, a tourist city of Tobo lake. (AP)

Warsaw Pact meet

Defence ministers of the seven Warsaw Pact states will gather near Berlin on Wednesday for a two-day regular meeting that, according to East Germany, may be the alliance's last military conference.

The official East German news agency quoted a defence and Disarmament Ministry statement as saying the meeting would take place from June 13 to 15 in Strausberg, east of the capital.

In an interview with the Berliner Morgenpost newspaper at the weekend, East German Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann said the pact's military structure would be abolished by the end of the year.

"Next week's meeting of Warsaw Pact defence ministers in Strausberg will be the last of its kind," he added. (Reuters)

Push for Start treaty: The United States and the Soviet Union begin a long push this week to reach a treaty by the end of the year to make major reductions in their nuclear arsenals.

Shostakovsky paints an alarming picture of danger, disintegration

Split imminent in Soviet Communist Party: official

Shostakovsky paints an alarming picture of danger, disintegration

MOSCOW, June 11. (Reuters): The Soviet Communist Party seems doomed to split after July's Congress and could be overtaken by a "round table" involving a new party, independent trade unions and the church, according to a senior party official.

Vyacheslav Shostakovsky heads the influential democratic platform faction which many see as the basis of a future Social Democrat Party.

For thousands disillusioned with President Mikhail Gorbachev and wary of the flame-borne of rebel Russian federation President Boris Yeltsin, he is a third way.

Sitting in his office at the party ideological school, which he directs, Shostakovsky paints

an alarming picture of danger and disintegration.

"I think we are to some extent in a similar situation to Germany in 1933," he said. "The empty shelves in our shops, the exasperation, could lead to rapid merging of leftist and rightist populism in a form of national socialism."

"Unfortunately, our politicians do not understand this well, do not have a clear idea of the threat."

A stocky man with swept-back, wavy grey hair, Shostakovsky sprang to fame six months ago when democratic platform's programme was published in the Communist daily Pravda.

He infuriated the leadership by demanding

that the party's system of command be smashed and replaced by democratic elections.

What started as a campaign to change the party has developed into a growing conviction that it is chained by its past.

Shostakovsky said many supporters of democratic platform, estimated by some to number up to half of the party, might leave after the July congress. The group will hammer out future policy at a conference next week-end.

Shostakovsky, unlike Yeltsin and Gorbachev untainted by membership of the elite central committee, said the party had a last chance to save itself at its congress if it broke with dogma born of 72 years of absolute power.

"The tragedy is that the party is just not ready to do it," he said. More members were leaving as the party split into democratic and conservative camps.

At a 1991 congress presided over by then-leader Leonid Brezhnev, the party appeared a monolithic force, exalting itself as the "honour and conscience of our age." Now, Gorbachev was reaping the hatred born of 70 years of repression.

"The General Secretary (Gorbachev) is in a peculiar position. At the moment there is no single group or wing on which he can count," Shostakovsky said. "The mood is growing that Gorbachev should abandon all his party poses."

Attempt on Rafsanjani's life

Escaped unhurt; third in eight months

NICOSIA, June 11. (AP): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has escaped a new attempt on his life, reportedly the third in eight months, Iran's dissident Mujahadeen Khalq reported today.

The group, in a dispatch sent to the Associated Press in Nicosia from Washington, said the attempt was in "late April," but did not provide an exact date.

There reportedly has been at least two previous attempts to kill Rafsanjani, one in

October 1989, and one in January this year. The official media in Iran did not confirm either incident, reported separately by several travellers from Iran.

Rafsanjani, however, has denied the attempts, which the sources then said involved bodyguards trying to shoot the president, but being overpowered by other security men in his entourage.

The Mujahadeen said that is the latest attempt, also one of the bodyguards was

planning to "kill Rafsanjani with a revolver while he was moving from one location to the other." It did not explain if he was at home or on the road.

But other bodyguards spotted him, and the would-be assassin was arrested before being able to pull the trigger, said the statement from Mujahadeen Khalq, or the people's warriors.

The unattributed six-sentence report did not provide any other detail.

Kirghiz observe day of mourning

Situation returning to normal

MOSCOW, June 11. (Reuters): Flags flew at half mast in the capital of Soviet Kirghizia today as the republic observed an official day of mourning for the 116 people killed in a week of fierce ethnic unrest.

"The theatres and cinemas have closed temporarily. People are going about their business calmly," Albert Bogdanov, an editor at the official Kirghiz news agency Kiriag, said by phone from the capital, Frunze.

On Friday a large crowd gathered in the capital's main square in an unofficial ceremony to mourn the victims of the conflict, sparked last Monday in the southern town of Osh after an argument between Uzbeks and Kirghiz over land allocation.

The Kirghiz Interior Ministry said today there were indications that the south of the republic, where armed gangs have been hunting each other down for the past few days, was stabilising, the official Tass news agency said.

"Everything is calming down," added a Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman in Moscow.

The clashes prompted the closure of the border between Kirghizia and Uzbekistan and declarations of emergency in regions surrounding Osh and Uzbek border town of Andizhan.

Uzbek leaders warned last week that the violence was threatening to become a full-scale conflict between the two republics and asked Moscow for help.

"Most people do not favour an atmosphere of confrontation. People understand it would be physically impossible. Kirghizia is much smaller than Uzbekistan," Bogdanov said.

Work in Osh was returning to normal, shops were opening and public transport was being organized, Tass said.

But Bogdanov said workers in Frunze were dissatisfied with measures introduced after a state of emergency was imposed in the capital last Thursday.

"To ensure the curfew isn't broken, enterprises are now working a single 12-hour shift instead of several eight-hour shifts. The workers are not happy," he said.

The restrictions were imposed after crowds massed in Frunze, demanding the resignation of the republic's communist party leadership and throwing stones at senior party figures.

Bogdanov said a planned congress of the republic's communist party on June 14 would go ahead.

The violence, in which 468 people have been injured, has now officially claimed more victims than any of the other outbreaks to hit Soviet Central Asia over the last two years.

An explosive mix of ethnic groups and years of pent-up nationalism, inflamed by high unemployment and squalid living conditions, have created a tinderbox in the region.

Around 110 people were killed last year when Uzbeks hunted down ethnic Turks in Uzbekistan's Fergana valley to the north-west of the present troubles.

The independent Soviet news agency Postfactum on Sunday quoted a leader of a radical reform movement to Kirghizia as saying Communist Party officials in the republic were seeking to blame his group for the unrest.

The radical author Kazat Akmatov of the Kirghizstan Democratic Movement, told Postfactum the real cause of the clashes lay in 70 years of Communist Party neglect of living conditions in both Kirghiz and Uzbeks.

The violence is also raging through the Transcaucasus where Armenian and Azeri militants have been fighting a guerrilla war for the last two years over the disputed Azeri enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.



A Soviet paratrooper displays handguns and knives seized from the local militia in Uzgen, Soviet Kirghiz, June 10. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lithuanian talks

Prunskiene in Moscow

MOSCOW, June 11. (Reuters): The Prime Minister of Lithuania arrived in Moscow today to meet Kremlin leaders and try again to resolve the deadlock created by the republic's independence declaration.

Vilnius radio said Kazimiera Prunskiene would meet Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and might also see Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. She met both men last month in inconclusive talks on the issue.

"We have unofficial information that Prunskiene will meet Gorbachev, but we don't know when. If so, this will be a very important meeting," said a journalist at Vilnius radio.

Prunskiene was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Lithuanian Communist Party chief Algirdas Brazauskas, who said at the weekend he was prepared to help reconcile the two sides.

But a spokesman at Lithuania's permanent mission in Moscow said the prime minister had no plans to see Gorbachev and was due to fly back to Vilnius this evening.

The Soviet President has imposed economic sanctions that have crippled much of the republic's industry and refuse to negotiate with its leaders until they rescind or at least freeze the declaration.

Prunskiene was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Lithuanian Communist Party chief Algirdas Brazauskas, who said at the weekend he was prepared to help reconcile the two sides.

Word of 'decolonisation' spreads

Central Asian Muslims reviving tradition

TASHKENT, USSR, June 11. (AP): A murderous land dispute among ethnic cousins in Central Asia has shaken loose a word that generations of Soviet leaders have rejected out of hand: decolonisation.

Since the 1920s, when Stalin redraw borders and declared Muslims freed of backwardness, Moscow has considered the five central Asian republics as much a part of the union as mother Russia.

It was heresy to call them colonies — and outright blasphemy to suggest that they might leave the union.

But now, encouraged by new freedoms, Asians are returning to their mosques, reviving long dormant traditions, and in their own languages, speaking of themselves as colonised people.

More and more, the question is arising whether a Soviet Union fraught with crises elsewhere can satisfy, and pacify, an increasingly restive region where a slight spark ignites explosion.

Officially, little has changed. Local Communist Party governments, still firmly in control, insist that Central Asia's future lies within the Soviet Union. The Kremlin agrees.

Apart from strategic minerals and rich agricultural land, political imperatives suggest no Soviet government would lightly relinquish its own territory.

Pragmatic Asians realise that separating themselves from the Soviet Union would be as complex as unwinding a Bukhara carpet. But in a turbulent situation no one controls, and few understand, Soviet leaders face hard choices they would rather not confront.

Ethnic nationing between Uzbeks and Kirghiz — set off by disputes over land — brought thousands of troops into the Fergana valley, the most densely populated part of the country. Soldiers sprayed gunfire at crowds.

"Moscow does not have enough troops, and it will not be able to manage if anything really blows," said a respected Soviet ethnographer who agreed to speak his mind if assured of anonymity.

Central Asia stretches from the Caspian Sea to China, an area half as big as the United States, Uzbekistan, with

19 million inhabitants, is the third-most populous Soviet Republic.

Michael Ryskin, a New York professor raised in the ancient city of Samarkand and author of "Moscow's Muslim Challenge," put it bluntly in a recent interview: "There are pogroms against Russians. They've left villages and now they're leaving the cities. Soviet leaders, whether to just get rid of them."

Russians began settling in Tashkent a century ago when czarist troops secured most of the region. After the revolution, Soviet professionals brought education, industry and health care.

Despite official rhetoric about a single people, few Asians men have European wives, but almost no Muslim women marry outsiders.

Most Asians say their hostility is not toward the outsiders themselves, but rather the stifling system that confines them to an alien style of life with few choices.

Economists and sociologists acknowledge that, unless rising tide of jobless youth will wash over the government's barriers against desperation.

As more Russians leave, analysts say, industry and services will suffer, making the problem worse.

Young Asians, long silent in fear of reprisal, are speaking out with growing vehemence.

"We don't want communists or their damned system," said a youth in Samarkand, distraught over impending military service. "They should go peacefully, orderly. But Uzbekistan must be free."

Even party officials worry that the growing tension threatens their traditional values.

In Moscow, Bakhtiyor Khamidov, a senior member of the head of the central government, shook his head sadly at the riots giving his people against Kirghiz.

"We have always been sure a hospitable people; it is in our blood," he said. "You can imagine how bad conditions have gotten for this to have happened."

Shamir faces vote of approval

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 11. (Agencies): Hours before presenting a narrow, right-wing coalition to a vote of confidence in parliament, acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir made last-minute efforts today to enlist the support of four uncommitted members from his Likud Party.

At midday, the four members of Likud bloc factions, who were demanding cabinet posts in return for their support, had not announced how they would vote.

The Israeli parliament, the Knesset, was scheduled to convene at 4 pm (1300 GMT) and a vote of confidence to be held several hours later.

If Shamir secures the backing of the wavering politicians, he would have at least 62 votes in the 120-member Knesset. The threats by the four to withhold their support illustrated the fragility of the narrow coalition, comprising Likud, three right-wing and three religious parties.

Despite the 11th-hour uncertainty, Likud Party leaders were optimistic the new coalition would be approved today, ending a three-month government crisis that has dominated Israel.

"I think it can be said there is a very good chance that we can present a government today in the Knesset," said Roni Milo, a Likud leader designated to become police minister.

The seven-party coalition, which Shamir finally put together on Friday, is one of the most right-wing in Israel's history, and already has drawn severe criticism from the centre-left Labour Party and Palestinian leaders.

Labour leader and former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Israel Radio today that the Likud-led government would cut Israel off from the peace process. He said it was "a pale copy" of the 1981 Likud government that ended the peace process with Egypt and launched the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a Likud leader, told Israel Radio that the criticism was unfounded.

"We are going to renew our peace plan," he said. "We going to hope that for a change there will be some takers on the Arab side."

On Friday, after 42 days of political bargaining, Shamir signed a coalition agreement and guidelines with these parties. He then informed President Chaim Herzog he had enough support to form a government.

In its guidelines, the coalition gave highest priority to settling the Jewish issue. It rejected direct or indirect talks with the PLO or the creation of a Palestinian state, but called for advancing the peace process under the auspices of the Camp David accords and Shamir's 1989 peace initiative.

The key proposal of the initiative is elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, leading to limited autonomy.

The 15-month-old Likud-Labour "national unity" government collapsed March 13 because of Shamir's refusal to approve a US plan for Palestinian-Israeli talks. Two days later, a vote of no confidence engineered by the Labour Party, brought down the government.

Shamir seemed assured of parliamentary backing today for his new right-wing government, which he said would try to improve relations with US President George Bush.

"We will have to strengthen and renew our relations with the United States and especially to improve our ties with the President of the United States," Shamir said.

Disease is spreading in S. Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan, June 11. (AP): Disruption continues and disease is spreading among hundreds of thousands of people set adrift by major earthquakes in war-torn southern Sudan three weeks ago.

Experts who just completed a seven-day tour of the remote area reported today of the virtual destruction of a town, Terakaka.

They wrote of people burned by scalding water that spewed from a fissure in the earth and of hepatitis, malaria and malnutrition spreading among survivors forced to sleep outdoors.

Citizens are panic-stricken in Terakaka and the south's main town, Juba, 750 miles (1200 km) south of Khartoum, the experts reported. Thousands have fled from the outbreak to Juba, already double its normal size with refugees from Sudan's 7-year-old civil war.

One shot dead in Nablus gunfight

Israeli army captures 11

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 11. (Reuters): Israeli security forces shot dead an armed Palestinian and captured at least 11 people in a gunfight in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus today, residents said.

Palestinians identified the dead man as 18-year-old Jamal Sabbagh and said he was a leader of the Revolutionary Security Apparatus, a paramilitary group affiliated with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Israeli military officials confirmed an Arab man was killed, three were wounded and eight were captured unharmed. A statement said an army patrol encountered a group of people in the city of Nablus who turned out to be wanted by the army.

The army did not say if there was an exchange of fire but reported that a pistol, ammunition and knives were found in possession of the Arabs.



Assad

Arabs' chance of survival is better

Assad raps Israeli policies

DAMASCUS, June 11. (Reuters): Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said today both Arabs and Israelis had enough arms to inflict disaster on each other but Arabs would survive better because they were more or them.

Addressing the first session of Syria's newly elected Parliament, Assad said Israel would suffer more in a Middle East war because of its small population.

"Israel is still advanced over Arabs technologically and could inflict on them human disasters in the case of war. But Arabs, with what they own, can exchange the disasters in the same way..."

"Because Arabs have human depth, which Israel lacks, the exchange of disasters would have more weight on the Israelis," Assad said.

The Syrian leader said the balance of power in the Middle East was swinging in favour of the Arabs and Israel's "way of force" would lead only to

deadlock. He said the Arabs wanted peace but Israel did not because it sought only to expand and take more Arab lands by force.

"Peace will force Israel to return the occupied lands to their owners and will put an end to expansion," Assad said.

He reiterated calls for Arab unity and solidarity. "What is coming is not a limited danger but a danger of destiny... it is ironic that some of our Arab brothers are talking about this danger but this did not appear in their actions and behaviour."

Assad praised the merger between North and South Yemen "who put unity above all considerations and affirmed they want this unity as a step on the way to the greater Arab unity."

The Syrian leader reiterated his support for efforts by President Elias Hrawi to restore peace and unity.

The army imposed a curfew on the 120,000 residents in the city and adjacent refugee camps. Residents said some fugitives had escaped and the army was still searching for them.

Palestinians said the Revolutionary Security Apparatus was a pseudo-police force of uprisings activists who tracked and interrogated suspected Arab collaborators.

But unlike the Black Panthers, another Fatah group which operated last year in Nablus, the Security Apparatus did not kill suspects. Instead they publicised their identities and urged people to boycott suspected informers.

The army said the group was linked to killing suspected collaborators, interrogating others and attacking Israeli forces.

The Nablus casbah, home to some 30,000 residents, has been a stronghold of the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Palestinian "strike forces," sometimes carrying automatic weapons, roam its dark alleys, enforcing the directives of the revolt's clandestine leadership.

Israeli troops have raided the neighbourhood numerous times, killing a number of activists and arresting others.

The last raid took place in March where Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinian gunmen and arrested two.

Israelis have killed at least 676 Palestinians since the outbreak of the revolt in December 1987.

Palestinian militants have killed some 211 fellow Arabs, most as suspected informers, and 46 Jews have died.

In Jerusalem today, an unidentified man attacked an Arab cab driver with a hammer in Jewish West Jerusalem before fleeing, police said.

A police spokesman said it was unclear whether the attacker was a Jew — or an Arab who believed he was attacking a Jewish driver of a taxi with yellow licence plates issued to Israelis.

Leaders of the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's new right-wing coalition as a "terrorist government" today and urged Arabs to fight it.

"Through escalating the uprising and strict adherence to the Palestinian peace initiative as a political option we can force the enemy government and its ally, the United States, to retreat," the PLO-backed unified leadership of the uprising said in its latest regular leaflet.

Ethiopia to seek assurance on settlements

Falashas' exodus to Israel

I met Arafat, says Israeli minister

ADDIS ABABA, June 11. (Reuters): Ethiopia is considering whether to allow thousands of black Jews to emigrate to Israel, Foreign Minister Tesfaye Dinka said.

But he denied that the government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam, which restored diplomatic relations with Israel last November, had already reached an agreement with Israel on a mass exodus of its Jews, known as Falashas.

"The Ethiopian government is not discussing and has not discussed a mass exodus of the remaining Falashas," Tesfaye told Reuters in an interview yesterday. "What we have discussed with them is reasonable efforts towards family reunion."

A senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official said last week that all the estimated 14,000 Jews still in Ethiopia were expected to emigrate to Israel within a year.

About 12,000 Falashas emigrated in a secret airlift launched in late 1984.

Tesfaye said Ethiopia might seek assurances from Israel that the Falashas would not be resettled in the occupied West Bank if they did go to Israel.

"This particular point is quite possible. We have not as yet discussed the details (of any exodus)"

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 11. (Reuters): Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had met Arafat when both men addressed a special UN Security Council session in Geneva on May 25 which debated a flare-up of violence in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Addressing Jewish-American youths, Netanyahu made the reference to Arafat in a tirade against Arab tactics to combat Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

"They cooked up a lie, a big lie," he said. "Believe me I have experience with the big lies. I met Arafat in Geneva the other week. They use lies, they coin lies — oo problem."

— how many and how they go," he said. "We are also looking at the implications of how our neighbours would look at it."

Ethiopia's Arab neighbours were alarmed by its decision to restore diplomatic ties with Israel.

Western diplomats said the move, at a time of dwindling support from Ethiopia's traditional Soviet and East European backers, might have backfired by encouraging some Arab countries to arm rebels seeking independence for the Red Sea province of Eritrea.

They also said Israel feared that, if the Eritrean People's Liberation Front did defeat the non-Muslim Ethiopian govern-

A Foreign Ministry spokesman denied that Netanyahu had met Arafat when both men addressed a special UN Security Council session in Geneva on May 25 which debated a flare-up of violence in the Israeli-occupied territories.

He could not immediately explain Netanyahu's remark but said: "It would be impossible for official members of this government to meet with the PLO."

Israeli law bans contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, considered a terrorist movement bent on destroying Israel.

The Israeli delegation to the UN boycotted Arafat's address to the Security Council.

of a deal between the two governments to let them go.

Witnesses said they had camped out in the compound of the newly-opened Israeli embassy where they were being processed by Jewish volunteer groups before resettlement in Israel.

Tesfaye said that so far only the principle of allowing Falashas to leave had been discussed with Israel. But he added that all Ethiopians had the right to travel and the government could not prevent someone going simply because he was a Falasha.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens protested to Egypt over its support for an Arab summit's resolutions in Baghdad, Israeli officials said today.

Battle of tanks in Beirut streets

BEIRUT, June 11. (Reuters): Christian armies fought a 90-minute tank battle in the streets of Beirut today and prepared for a major showdown in their four-month war.

Security sources said the pre-dawn fighting was the fiercest since a shaky ceasefire was declared three weeks ago.

Explosions echoed across the mountains and shells lit up the night sky as army units of General Michel Aoun and the rival Lebanese Forces (LF) militia battled with tanks, mortars and machine-guns.

The main battleground was the Christian districts of Nabaa and Sin El-Fil, where residents covered in shelters. Reports on casualties were not available, security sources said.

Residents reported LF units were establishing artillery positions and had brought more men into the front line for any resumption of large-scale confrontations.

Fears of renewed war drove people from the streets and parts of the Christian enclave resembled a ghost town.

Maronite Christian patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir said yesterday he had information the belligerents were preparing for a new round of fighting "as if what has happened is not sufficiently tragic."

Today's battle was the worst breach of a ceasefire mediated by Iraq, the main arms supplier to the warring sides. A Vatican initiative to reach a political settlement has yet to make progress.

The church has been trying to convince Aoun and LF chief Samir Geagea to open a dialogue.

Aoun and the LF have been battling for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave since Jan 31 when the general ordered the 10,000-strong LF to disband.

Since then more than 1,000 people have been killed and 3,150 wounded.

Today's flare-up followed three hours of fighting yesterday with machine-guns and mortars in Sin El-Fil and the mountains of Keeswan, 40 km (25 miles) northeast of Beirut.

The sources could not give immediate figures on human tolls or extent of damage caused by the exchange of shelling but both sides traded accusations for breaching the truce.

But in the northern mountainous region of Kisrawan no ceasefire breaches were reported by either side nor near Qila'at, where the most fierce battles had been fought between the two sides prior to the recent truce.

Local reporters in east Beirut said that last night's fighting did not affect traffic in the sector's various neighbourhoods where movement by pedestrians and cars continued almost normally.

Surgeons fed up

Vision of hell in Beirut

BEIRUT, June 11. (Reuters): With blood up to their elbows and shells smashing into their hospitals, Beirut's surgeons toil in a vision of hell to save victims of the fighting.

Experts at keeping their emotions in check, they reveal the hard-won lessons of their calling during a lull in their work.

"I've been operating since I joined an army hospital in 1973 but I'm never depressed," said Dr Miri Barbour, 60, a surgeon at the shell-damaged Hayek Hospital in Christian east Beirut.

"You know what happens to a surgeon in this war? You just get fed up seeing young people dead. You get angry, not depressed," he paused, staring at his hands. "I'm sick of seeing people dead."

For the last four months hospitals in east Beirut have been flooded with cases of shell, rocket, mortar and bullet wounds from the winter-Christian war in Lebanon's history.

More than 1,000 people have been killed and 3,150 wounded in east Beirut since Jan 31. Most surgeons said the fighting, injuries and operating conditions were the worst they had seen.

They said three factors determined whether a casualty lived or died — the type of injury, the speed at which he or she reached hospital and the availability of blood.

The number of casualties was larger than before and wounds more serious because battles erupted without warning in crowded urban areas from which there was no escape.

The Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and troops under General Michel Aoun have sliced up east Beirut with frontlines. Some hospitals were isolated in battle zones, others like Hayek were

left a few blocks behind the lines and a few were fairly safe.

Another doctor at Hayek, which has received some 700 wounded since January, described a typical day when he operated for up to 20 hours at a stretch while shells exploded nearby.

"We hear fighting starts so we rush to the hospital. And then people come in and throw wounded at us," said the surgeon, who declined to be identified.

"Sometimes we have no beds so they stay on the floor. If shells land near the hospital we work in the basement."

"The soldiers and Red Cross workers bring in the casualties say 'do what you can' and then leave to fetch more."

He said the most harrowing problem was the large number of injured and shortage of doctors, who constantly had to decide who to treat quickly and who had to wait.

About half the wounded taken to hospital required surgery. Surgeons at Hayek often had to use local rather than general anaesthetic during operations in the basement bomb shelter or when the oxygen tanks were nearly depleted.

But death rates among those wounded in Beirut during the 15-year civil war remain relatively low compared to such conflicts as Korea and Vietnam.

With many neighbourhood hospitals, casualties arrive within 20 minutes and surgeons often know the wounded.

Only 25 of the 700 casualties taken to Hayek died. Sacre-Coeur Hospital treated some 600 people, three of whom could not be saved.



A Tunisian woman votes in a popular area Attadhamon near Tunis June 10. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ruling party wins Tunis local polls

Opposition boycotts

TUNIS, June 11. (AP): The ruling Constitutional Democratic Rally Party won all but 34 of 3,774 seats in municipal councils in nationwide elections boycotted by opposition parties, the government said today.

Because only a few independent candidates challenged the ruling party in Sunday's elections, abstention was the only way for most of the 1.7 million voters to express discontent with President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali's government.

No official voter turnout figure had been released but Tunisian newspapers said about 85 per cent of voters cast ballots. The turnout reportedly was higher in rural areas and lower in Tunis, the capital.

Independent candidates ignoring the boycott were listed on ballots in only 19 of 246 municipal councils.

According to preliminary results issued by the Interior

Ministry, independents won 34 seats, including 12 in Monastir, birthplace of deposed former president Habib Bourguiba.

Two Tunis newspapers reported today that independent candidates had accused supporters of the ruling party of various electoral abuses in some regions.

The election boycott was endorsed by officially recognised left- and right-wing secular parties and by an officially unrecognised Islamic fundamentalist group, An Nahda.

The balloting marked the second time the voters of the north African country of 7.2 million people were ostensibly posed with a free choice.

In legislative elections in 1988, the ruling party won every seat in the National Assembly. Opposition parties later accused the party of having abused its control of state funds, transport and mass media.

Minister rules out new coup in Kabul

KABUL, June 11. (Reuters): Afghan Defence Minister Mohammad Aslam Watanjar ruled out today the possibility of a fresh coup attempt against President Najibullah.

Sitting in his office at the Defence Ministry, from where his predecessor, Shahnawaz Tanai, launched an abortive coup last March, Watanjar said he had shifted military commanders to prevent against another army rebellion.

"I do not see any possibility of a new coup attempt happening," the four-star general told Reuters in an interview. He declined to give further details.

As he spoke, workmen were busy repairing the ministry building, a former palace, to clear the last traces of the failed March putsch.

The army uprising came slightly more than one year after Soviet troops withdrew, leaving the Kabul government to fight alone against US-backed Muslim fighters (mujahadeen).

The Defence Ministry building in south Kabul was heavily damaged by government air and artillery strikes that forced Tanai and his close aides to flee.

Watanjar, like Tanai, has links with the Khalq faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

He remained loyal to Najibullah during the coup.

The PDPA has been riven for years by factional infighting between Najibullah's Parcham group and the hardline Khalgis who dominate the Afghan officer corps.

The morale of the Afghan military was high, Watanjar said. "A split does not exist in our armed forces."

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Mubarak briefed: A senior Soviet official briefed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday on the results of the superpower summit in Washington earlier this month, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Middle East and North Africa department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, briefed Mubarak on general and Middle East topics raised at the summit.

Mubarak during a trip to Moscow last month urged Gorbachev to raise the subject of Soviet Jewish immigration in Israel — which Arabs strongly oppose — when he met US President George Bush at the summit. (Reuters)

Al Shara to visit Turkey: Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara will travel to Turkey on Thursday for talks likely to include a dispute on sharing the Euphrates river, Turkish Foreign Ministry sources said.

A statement said Shara and Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer would discuss all aspects of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues. Ties between Ankara and Damascus have been strained since Turkey diverted the Euphrates for a month in January to fill its Ataturk Dam, centrepiece of an \$11 billion power and irrigation scheme. (Reuters)

Blue Nile: The level of the Blue Nile has begun to rise in the past two days but is still below what is required for generating enough electricity, according to the director-general of the National Electricity Corporation.

Engineer Mahmood Mohammed Sherif added in a report to the council of ministers that the water level had almost doubled to 14 million cubic metres a day but the power generating turbines need a daily flow of 40 million cubic metres to fully feed the national grid. (Kuna)

Five Palestinians held: Five Palestinians were detained for questioning on Monday in connection with the weekend desecration of 80 graves in the American and Polish sections of a Jerusalem cemetery, police said.

Police spokesman Yitzhak Greif said two juveniles and three adults from the village of Abadia in the occupied West Bank were taken into custody. The cemetery's Arab guard was interrogated on Sunday, he said.

Greif refused to give further details, but Israel Radio said the suspects often slept in a cave on the cemetery grounds. (AP)

Slain clergyman buried: Tens of thousands mourners on Monday thronged to the funeral of a slain clergyman in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan, the Islamic republic news agency reported.

The agency, monitored by Nicosia, said Hajjatoleslam Sheikh Ali Mazari was killed by armed bandits on Thursday.

Iran did not detail the circumstances of Mazari's death. But the largest Iranian opposition group, the Baghdad-based Mujahadeen Khalq, have reported angry clashes in Zahedan between residents and security forces which have resulted in many deaths. The Mujahadeen reported last week that 44 people, 14 of them security men, were killed in "the past few days." (AP)

Intifada hailed: A Soviet daily hailed the Palestinian intifada in the occupied Arab lands and called on the international community to escalate their support with the Palestinian struggle.

Daily Pravda, the mouth piece of the Soviet Communist Party in a comment on Monday said that all the countries of the world denounce the Israeli inhuman and aggressive practices against the Palestinian people who are struggling for their independence. (Kuna)

Kurdish rebels kill 26 villagers in deadly attack

ANKARA, June 11. (Reuters): Rebel Kurds launched their most deadly attack for two years last night, killing at least 26 civilians in a remote village in southeastern Turkey.

The raid on Cevrimli village, 50 km (30 miles) north of the Iraqi and Syrian borders, showed the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) was still a potent force despite renewed government efforts to stamp out a six-year-old insurgency.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency said today at least 20 civilians, including

women and children, were killed by separatist rebels.

Local sources in the regional city of Diyarbakir said the toll could reach 26 and that village guards, later joined by troops, killed one guerrilla in surrounding scrubland.

Reports of the massacre were scant but the sources said rebels were believed to have set fire to four houses, charring some bodies inside, before fleeing.

It was the PKK's biggest operation since 25 villagers were killed in nearby Mardin

province in May 1988 and suggested that the rebels may be reverting to more attacks on civilians after targeting Turkish troops.

The attack brought to at least 38 the number of people, including rebels, killed in southeastern areas near the Iranian, Iraqi and Syrian frontiers this month.

In May, 97 deaths were reported, believed to be a record for any month since the insurgency for an independent homeland started. Nearly 2,500 people have been killed in the

ARAB TIMES GRAND

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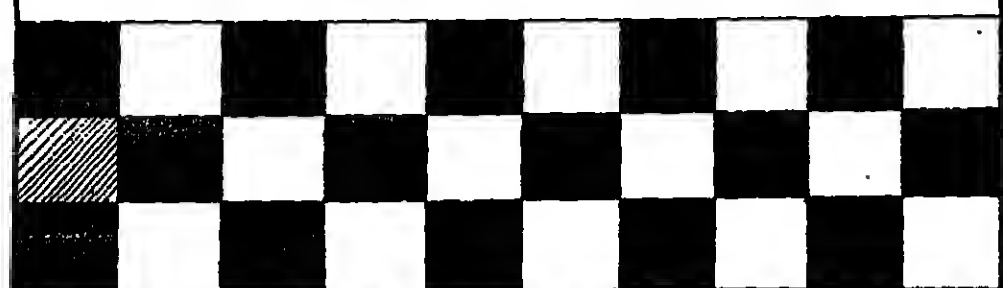
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1. Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the

- appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
4. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
5. Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
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 Kuwait National Council seats

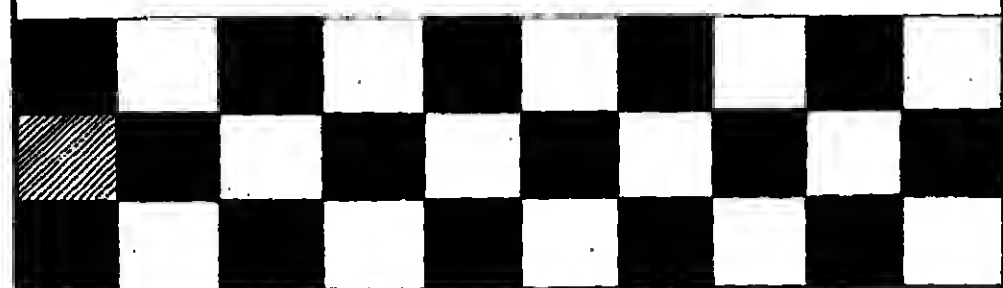
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Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT. This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified.

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card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:
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 13023 Safat Kuwait.
 A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

MEW expanding water network

Funaitees to get 6 new tanks

CHIEF Engineer of the Water Network at Kuwait Ministry of Electricity and Water, Khaled Al Farhoud has said that the water department at the ministry is appointed to design and supervise water connections to consumers. Such projects include main and branch water networks, water towers, underground water tanks, water pumping stations and other duties.

Interviewed by a local daily, he pointed out that the department is currently supervising the implementation of some projects like fresh water underground tanks, a high water tower and a pumping station. He added that other projects include construction of six water tanks west of Funaitees, in addition to the expansion of Abdalli farms water station, water collecting network north-east Umm Qndair and other water works at Failaka Island.

He indicated that the department is also supervising a project of replacing fresh water networks at residential areas. The first stage of this project comprises of

Bneid Al Qar, Shaab, Dafeya, Dasma, Qadesiya, North and East Shuwaikh, Shamiya and Mansouriya has been completed. He stated that works will be completed in Faiba and Shamiya within the coming two weeks. Currently the department is replacing water networks in Adaliya, Khaldiya, Nuzha and Rawdha Areas, Farhoud said.

Saudis laud security ties with Kuwait

THE chairman of the Saudi Arabia based Arab Centre for Security Studies and Training, Dr. Farouk Murad praised the relations between Kuwait and the centre and said that HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah was the senior-most Arab official to visit the centre till date.

Speaking to a local daily on the centre's performance at the Arab level, the official said that it had contributed considerably to the Arab countries during the last ten years, particularly in the prevention of crime and had made several novel recommendations in this field.

The official commented that the centre occupies a distinguished position among its counterparts in the world and has always been well represented at international conferences and seminars through their submission of research papers on security aspects. As a measure of their significance, the official said that these papers will be officially endorsed by the UN International Eighth Conference on security. These studies will be internationally known as Al Riyadh Criteria which relate to addressing juvenile crimes.

Speaking of the Higher Institute for Security Science which is affiliated to the centre, the official said that as of next year the institute will commence conferring M.A. degrees in Psychology. The M.A. programme of the institute will be the first of its kind in the Arab world and will provide qualified cadre to provide recommendations to Arab authorities to remedy cases of addiction.

Transport agreement with Turkey

A GOVERNMENT delegation from Kuwait left for Turkey to follow up the terms of the international agreement between Kuwait and Turkey in the field of land transport.

Additionally, the delegation will review the various problems posed to private trucks and trucks owned by both countries in accordance with the mutual agreement signed in 1970.

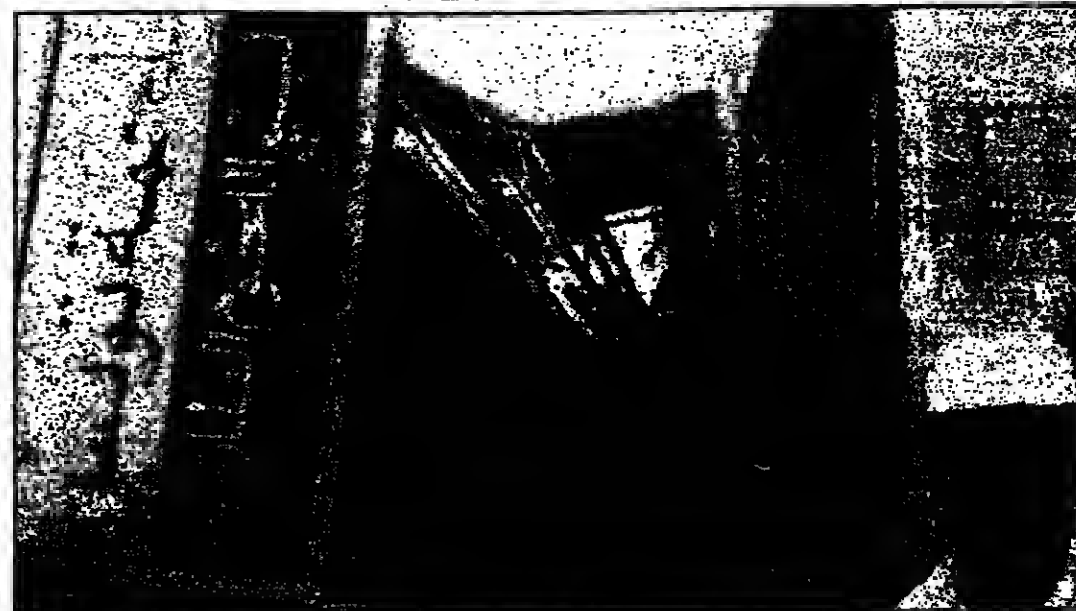
The delegation headed by director of the Land Transportation Department, Mubarak Al Khalidi, during the five-day meeting will focus on resolving difficulties concerning drivers, entry visas and complying with custom formalities of both countries.

According to reliable sources, the agreement is considered one of the most successful ever signed on land transport as Turkey does not impose any charges on Kuwaiti trucks. Conversely, during peak hours, both border centres in Abdali and Salami receive a total of 150 Turkish trucks and almost 90 trucks on normal days.

Khorafi meets Bahraini ministers

MANAMA, June 11, (Kuna): Kuwait's Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi met here last night with Bahraini Minister of Finance and Economy Ibrahim Abdul Karim and Minister of Information Tareq Al Muayyed, the Gulf News Agency reported.

The agency said the talks with the two ministers dealt with aspects of co-operation between Kuwait and Bahrain in the financial and economic sectors, in addition to the issues on the agenda of the three-man ministerial committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council which is discussing the changes in the international arena and issues of mutual interest.



House crashes

Strong winds brought this house in Hassawi crashing down because the foundations were not solid. The owner of the house in the foreground berates his misfortune. Photos and report by (Ahmed Inadi).

MOE reviews exam methods

22,000 pupils to enrol in private schools

DEVELOPING educational aspects in Kuwait is accorded every priority and is not only an ongoing process, but is continually examined from various angles to ensure optimum benefit to students, a senior educational official said.

After having toured a number of examination committees recently Minister of Education, Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri, said that the ministry is undertaking a highly comprehensive review of the parameters and methodologies presently in force in conducting General Secondary Certificate Examinations. The present review encompasses both the science and arts sections in addition to the Religious Institute Examinations.

The minister underscored the concept that the nature of these examinations is vitally important to the students as this particular exercise, represents a transformation phase in the future of students.

Nouri expressed satisfaction on the measures instituted to ensure that the highest level of supervision is exercised at these examinations and that students maintain their integrity to independently answering their respective papers. He took the opportunity of wishing students success in their academic and professional lives.

The official said that a total of 21,246 female and male students were divided for supervision among 86 various committees. From this total number of students, 12,347 are in the scientific section and 8,899 in arts.

In a bid to determine that students are provided with every facility conducive to their performance at examinations, the minister said that special air-conditioned halls have been allocated, in addition to medical services and other amenities like cold drinking water.

He indicated that reports by examinations committees indicated that there was total attendance by students on the first day of the examinations. Disclosing that results will be declared a week after the last day of examinations, the official underscored the fact that the ministry has adopted a comprehensive plan to ensure the genuineness and safety of the General Secondary Education Certificate.

Nouri commented that bonus paid to teachers working at the Examinations Control Centres are not adequate.

During his tour to examination committees, the minister was escorted by the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Abdul Rahman Al

Khodari, Director of the Evaluations and Examinations Department at the ministry, Bader Al Soqobi and the Department Controller, Hamad Al Matrouk.

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary for private education at the Education Ministry Dr. Yagoub Al Shamsah said that the number of students, boys and girls, expected to enrol in private schools for the next academic year 90/91 is 22,000 pointing out that there are adequate seats to accommodate all these students.

He told a local daily that the only problem was the insistence by some students' families to enrol their children in certain schools, which increased pressure on these schools, adding that the total number of new students who enrolled at the outset of the academic year 89/90, in all different stages reached 20,907 boys and girls.

He said that the Private Education Department will endorse any application for licences to set up new private schools, provided that they meet the set qualifications.

He said that a special committee with members from the ministry and Kuwait Municipality has examined seven buildings proposed for operation as schools, and approved only four.



Up the pole

Another example of accidents caused by the craze for speed. A Mazda hugs a lamp post in front of the Egyptian embassy on Istiqbal street. The driver is in hospital

Iran offers to train Omani soldiers

NICOSIA, June 11, (Reuters): Iran has offered to give military training to Omani naval officers and said regional countries alone should be responsible for the security of shipping in the Gulf.

Iran made the announcement as two of its warships, the frigates Alborz and Bayandor, arrived in the Omani port of Qaboos yesterday, the national news agency IRNA said.

The commander of Iran's marine college, Admiral Mohsen Sayyar, called for military co-operation in talks with Omani officials.

"Admiral Sayyar announced Iran's naval forces are capable of training Omani navy officers at different levels," IRNA quoted him as saying.

He said the strategic Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf should be guarded by the littoral states without interference from foreign countries.

This was an apparent reference to the United States and Britain which maintain a naval presence in the Gulf, the main outlet for oil exports to the west.

The Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France had naval forces escorting convoys and seeking mines in the Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war.

Animal resources aid self-sufficiency

THE chairman of the Kuwait Agro-production Co-operative Union Barrack Al Noon has said that the majority of Kuwait produce is animal products which greatly helps meet local demand.

He told a local daily that it is possible to achieve self-sufficiency in different animal products if the animal resources sector received more support. He stressed the need for greater support to sheep raisers and to provide them with credit facilities to help them optimise production level and contribute actively to the implementation of the national food security strategy.

He said that the volume of agro-products has increased substantially and that this led to meeting 14.4 per cent the local demand for poultry meat.

This also led to meeting 44.2 per cent of the local demand for table eggs, and 26.6 per cent of milk products, 21.5 per cent of red meat which included sheep, goat, beef and camel and other types of meat.

He added that due to the high local demand for sheep meat, which equals 99.5 per cent of the total amount of meat consumed locally, 6000 cattle heads are slaughtered daily, which translates into about 2 million annually. The total cost of imported red meat is KD 110 million.

He said that there is a plan to satisfy the local demand for red meat from local sources, under which all potential obstacles can be overcome through special arrangements.

He said that the government has allocated special financial support for red meat production in general and for sheep meat, whether live or slaughtered animals.

He added that the value of financial allocations designated for this purpose for the year 1980/81 was about KD 8 million, and that the amount jumped over to KD 46 million which reflects the great government support for this sector.

Thai pilgrims face no discrimination, say Saudis

NICOSIA, June 11, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia said yesterday Thai Muslims would be treated like all others during the annual pilgrimage to Makkah next month. Thai officials said Friday that Riyadh had scrapped plans to provide transport for Thai pilgrims after reports that Thai workers sponsored by Iran in the

Middle East had been given military training.

"This is not true," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an official source as saying. "Thai pilgrims are treated just like their brothers from other Muslim states."

The Thai officials said Riyadh

had cancelled plans to send eight planes to Thailand to carry Thai pilgrims to the pilgrimage, but would allow Thais to travel on other airlines.

Iran, which has no diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, has said it will boycott the pilgrimage for the third year in a row unless Riyadh triples its quota of 45,000

pilgrims and allows demonstrations denouncing the United States and Israel.

More than 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranians, were killed in 1987 in clashes between Iranian-led demonstrators and Saudi security guards trying to prevent anti-Western rallies in Makkah.

Saudi-Thai relations have been strained by the killing in Bangkok of four Saudi embassy staff in attacks in January last year and February this year.

Saudi Arabia on Saturday urged Thailand to identify the foreign power which it said Thai investigators had established was behind the killings.

Salem pleased at election turn out

Democratic process lauded

KUWAIT, June 11. (Kuna): Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah yesterday toured a number of constituencies to inspect progress of polling for the National Council elections.

Sheikh Salem expressed his pleasure at the overwhelming turn out of the voters, saying it was a true expression of the people's allegiance to the country's leadership and an evidence of their unity against those who attempt to sow the seeds of discord among them.

Speaking to reporters, Sheikh Salem said successful candidates should live up

to the responsibilities shouldered to them by the voters.

Sheikh Salem said the turn out had shown the citizen's keenness on participation and his awareness of his role in building the country.

Experience

Stressing the significance of the elections experience, Sheikh Salem said it was of special importance to him because it is the first time for him to supervise holding of elections since he assumed the post as minister of interior.

To further facilitate elections process, Sheikh Salem revealed that his ministry was hoping to introduce a computerised system in upcoming election as is the case in advanced countries.

Praise

Sheikh Salem said the ministry would explore all means that would enable those who can't read or write to cast their votes without any external influence.

The minister further thanked the judges, attorneys, chairmen of electoral committees and all those who took part

in supervising elections for their great efforts.

Meanwhile, two Kuwaiti papers today praised the democratic process which the Kuwaitis yesterday practiced while electing members of the Interim National Council.

One paper said that the elections were a test that Kuwait had passed with distinction, affirming that Kuwaitis had exercised their voting right in full freedom and integrity.

The Kuwaitis lived up to the confidence in them and affirmed through

their participation in the elections that they were bound up with their country and the spirit of the one family.

For its part, another paper said that majority of the masses had performed their national duty and did not hesitate in supporting the National Council, birth of which would be the beginning of a new era for pure democracy.

The paper said that success of yesterday's elections also posed as a public referendum in which the people openly and frankly announced their backing for the new democratic march.



Registered voters waiting their turn to cast their ballot on June 10.



A Kuwaiti casts his ballot to decide the new National Council.



Police officers transfer the ballot boxes for counting.



Voters wait up half the night for the results.

UAE bans British beef

ABU DHABI, June 11. (Kuna): United Arab Emirates today decided to stop importing British beef and live cattle that contain marrow proteins, it was officially announced here.

The secretariat-general for UAE municipalities decided also to preserve all beef imported from the United Kingdom and already in UAE markets until further notice.

The secretary-general of UAE municipalities Jassem Darwish said the decision was taken by

a special committee formed to study international reports on "mad cow" disease or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) which had killed 14,000 cattle in Britain.

The UAE official added that the committee also studied the reasons that made France, West Germany, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand, United States, Soviet Union, Japan, Brazil, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Qatar as well as others to impose a ban on British beef.

Gulf arms purchases remain high: McDonnell

ABU DHABI, June 11. (AP): The Middle East is the only region in the world where the import of arms remains high despite a world-wide drop in such purchases, a senior official of the US military industry said today.

John F. McDonnell, chairman and chief executive officer of McDonnell Douglas, the major American manufacturer of military and civilian aircraft, made the statement to reporters at the end of a Middle East tour.

"McDonnell Douglas plans to refurbish its image in the Gulf and Middle East, and compete effectively for a good slice of the aircraft market from now on," he said at the end of a visit to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

McDonnell said the American corporation will deliver 12 F-15 "Eagle" fighter jets to Saudi Arabia in the next two years, and that 62 of these aircraft already are in the kingdom as part of its plan to boost its air defence capabilities.

Kuwait has ordered 40 F-18 "Hornet" multi-role tactical aircraft which will start arriving there next year, he said.

Conceding that his corporation has not been active in the civilian aircraft market, McDonnell said: "For many years now, McDonnell Douglas has been a force to reckon with in the Gulf region only for its defence aircraft, with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait being major buyers."

He added: "We want to change all that and become actively involved in marketing our aircraft."

He said the corporation's civilian aircraft MD-11 has tremendous potential in the Gulf market.

The potential changes in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China would bring about a boom in tourism and business travel, he said.

While in Bahrain, headquarters of the regional Gulf Air airliner, McDonnell reportedly proposed a billion-dollar deal for the sale of 12 long-haul aircraft over the next five to six years.

Jasser to run for Speaker

(Continued from Page 1)

winning at 50 per cent.

"In spite of the scorching heat, old and young people waited in lines to take part in this democratic process. This is a solid proof of the political awareness among the Kuwaiti people," Otaibi, who holds a PhD in political sciences believes it is too early to discuss any detailed plans concerning the evaluation of the parliamentary experience or reducing the four-year period of the council.

"Democracy means that one should be ready to accept chances of winning as well as chances of losing. The elections were honest competition and voters were keen on choosing their representatives in the National Council," said Sayah Bou Sheeba, Salaibikhat candidate, who lost the elections by 30 votes.

The ex-parliamentarian who was considered the strongest candidate in his constituency attributed his loss to last-minute tribal alliances. In an unfruffled voice, he wished winners luck in serving the people.

Although Bou Sheeba did not succeed in becoming a member of the National Council, he promised to continue his efforts in helping his fellow citizens in any way he could.

Elected and appointed members of the National Council will hold their first meeting in a month. According to the Amir decree the first ordinary session should start one month after announcing election results.

The 25 members expected to be appointed by HH the Amir soon will include a number of ministers.

Members present at the first session which will be headed by the eldest member, will elect the council's Speaker and his deputy.

The council's meetings held at the National Assembly premises, will be open except for those discussing the minutes of the parliamentary experience. Closed sessions could also be held at the request of the Speaker or a minimum of 15 members and the approval of the council.

Before assuming their new responsibilities, members will be sworn in, in an open session. They will vow to be loyal to the country and the Amir, to respect the constitution and the law, and to defend the people's rights, interests and wealth.

HERE is the final list of successful candidates in the June 10 elections for the National Council:

Constituency

- 1) **Sharq**
Winners
1) Ashour Yousef Al Sabagh (268); 2) Kazem Bou Abbas (222)
- 2) **Mirqab**
Winners
1) Ibrahim Abdulla Al Shehab (203); 2) Bader Nasser Al Basher (172)
- 3) **Qibla**
Winners
1) Khalifa M. K. Al Khorafi (215); 2) Adel A. R. Al Bader (171)
- 4) **Da'ya**
Winners
1) Safer Al Sudan (518); 2) Husam Al Roumi (488)
- 5) **Qadsiya**
Winners
1) Ahmad Ismail Behbehani (264); 2) Mousa Ibrahim Jraidan (240)
- 6) **Falha**
Winners
1) Mubarak M. Al Otaibi (306); 2) Ahmad Fahd Al Jassar (174)
- 7) **Kaifan**
Winners
1) Adel Othman Al Jeeran (164); 2) Othman Ali Al Najdi (150)
- 8) **Hawalli**
Winners
1) Tukhaim Al Tukhaim (484); 2) Jawad Al Matrouk (407)
- 9) **Rawda**
Winners
1) Jasser Al Jasser (700); 2) Abdul-Aziz Al Musaed (279)
- 10) **Adailiya**
Winners
1) Hamad Twajiri (386); 2) Ali Hussain Al Omar (333)
- 11) **Khalidiya**
Winners
1) Mohammed Rashed Al Omer (160); 2) Khalaf Hamad Al Tameemi (159)
- 12) **Salmiya**
Winners
1) Jaman Moh'd Al Huraiki (603); 2) Rashed Awad Al Juwaisri (391)
- 13) **Rumaihiya**
Winners
1) Abbas Al Khudari (1,257); 2) Jassem Qabazard (649)
- 14) **Abraq Khaitan**
Winners
1) Hmoud Al Jabri (701); 2) Ali Abdulla Al Otaibi (468)
- 15) **Farwaniya**
Winners
1) Mob'd Al Musalem (843); 2) Ali Al Haifi (578)
- 16) **Omariya**
Winners
1) Mubarak Al Khraieji (741); 2) Barrak Al Noun (664)
- 17) **Juleeb Al Shayoukh**
Winners
1) Mob'd K. Al Dahash (565); 2) Abdulkarim H. Al Juhaidi (462)
- 18) **Salaibikhat**
Winners
1) Khalaf Al Enzi (1,155); 2) Rashid Salman Hubaida (758)
- 19) **New Jahra**
Winners
1) Muhaimel Al Enzi (770); 2) Mutlaq Al Shlaimi (494)
- 20) **Jahra**
Winners
1) Talal Al Ayar (852); 2) Mohammad Al Hajraf (562)
- 21) **Ahmadi**
Winners
1) Fahad Al Azmi (1,082); 2) Saadoun Al Otaibi (932)
- 22) **Riqia**
Winners
1) Hadi H. Al Ajmi (954); 2) Marzouk F. Al Azmi (948)
- 23) **Sabahiya**
Winners
1) Salman Al Azmi (1,266); 2) Raja Al Azmi (1,211)
- 24) **Fahadheel**
Winners
1) Abdulla Awad Al Khudair (790); 2) Turki Al Azmi (773)
- 25) **Umm Al Haiman**
Winners
1) Ayed A. Al Azmi (692); 2) Musleh H. Al Azmi (655)

Clean sweep for govt

(Continued from Page 1)

poll was important because it could provide a model for other Gulf states seeking a balance between greater popular representation and the traditional powers of ruling Arab families.

Kuwait is the first member-state within the prosperous six-member Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), which also groups Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, to go ahead with such elections.

"The turn-out was good in all 25 constituencies," Kuwait radio quoted Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah as saying. "The result is very encouraging."

"Citizens have ignored the opposition," said Abdul Aziz Al Masood, owner of Al Raj Al Azm daily.

"The electors responded positively to the Amir decree on the establishment of a National Council," he said. "They (the people) proved to be in favour of the country's interests, showing that they have rejected any interference in its affairs internally and externally."

To many observers, results of the National Council elections came as a surprise, particularly regarding the calibre of those who mustered the most votes and won the elections.

The tents pitched by candidates under the scorching heat of over 45 degrees Celsius and sheep and camels slaughtered to feed hundreds of supporters had given Arab and foreign diplomats and journalists the mistaken impression that those candidates could hardly be educated let alone having political awareness.

The results of the four-year National Council elections surprised some by producing a considerable number of winners, who hold diplomas from major European and American universities.

The future council members



Jasser Khaled Al Jasser



Dr. Mubarak Al Otaibi

group a mixture of people, who include engineers, physicians, journalists, lawyers, teachers, government officials, businessmen, in addition to a number of former MPs.

These elections are a positive indication of what the future holds in coming elections, after the transitional house accomplishes the task entrusted to it by the recent Amir decree.

Privatisation of tele services

Two firms may take over

STUDIES currently in progress for the transfer of the Ministry of Communication's telecommunication services to a private company, already endorsed by the Council of Ministers will reportedly take a full year to complete will be followed by the establishment of two firms one for internal telecommunication services and the other for overseas.

Sources at the ministry say that the establishment of the two proposed firms will result in the termination of several staff

currently labelled 'functionally unemployed,' adding that the measure will optimise the service level and cut down on financial costs borne by the government.

Inflation

Sources say that the ministry is currently supervising the implementation of the cabinet decision to build up the proposed telecommunication firms, which will be assigned to undertake part of the public telecommunication services, adding that the

ministry plans to see to it that the project comes into completion in a short time.

The sources considered this project as falling within the framework of intended to eliminate functional inflation, while a number of employees will be retained at the ministry in supervisory positions.

The sources also revealed a ministry plan to impose charges on internal telephone calls in order to better regulate this vital public service.



Mukesh Daryani



Jyotsna Rao



Amir Husain



Gurinderjit Singh



Neil Armstrong

New Indian School maintains 100pc pass record

THE New Indian School, Jabriya, Kuwait maintained its 100 per cent pass record, in the All India Senior School Certificate Examination of the Central Board of Secondary Education held in March, 1990.

In the science section, 33 students out of 36 secured first divisions. Mukesh Daryani topped the batch with 87.25 per cent marks, which is the highest in Kuwait this

year. He also topped the school in his scores in physics, chemistry and mathematics.

Kirubha Vasanthi David was second with 84.5 per cent. The batch of 36 science students collected a total of 53 distinctions in individual subjects. In biology all the 16 candidates scored distinctions.

In the commerce section, Jyotsna Rao came first with 71 per cent marks. She also

topped the batch in economics as well as accountancy.

Neil Armstrong came first in humanities section. Out of a total of 79 students, 48 secured first divisions. 13 students secured overall distinction marks.

Highest marks:

Mathematics : Mukesh Daryani (95)
Physics : Mukesh Daryani (88)

Chemistry : Mukesh Daryani (96)
Biology : Kirubha David (95)
Amir Husain (95)
Accountancy : Jyotsna Rao (79)
Economics : Jyotsna Rao (75)
Gurinderjit Singh (75)
English : Shajan Thomas (72)

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONE is easily fooled by that which one loves — Moliere, French actor-playwright (1622-1673).

Pretoria scraps emergency

Spectre of law will still haunt

JOHANNESBURG, (Reuters): Before he was detained without trial under South Africa's sweeping emergency laws, Chris Ntuli never lived at home for fear of being killed by his political opponents.

After he was released, the government imposed a dusk to dawn curfew for him and decreed that he should report twice a day to a police station. He became an easy prey for his enemies.

One day last year as he returned to his home in Natal province's Edendale township from reporting to police, he was hacked to death.

Before the burial, Ntuli's family had to tell police the date, time, number of mourners and the proposed route of the funeral procession.

Funeral

No more than 200 people were allowed to attend his funeral, and the police had to authorise the mourners by issuing them with stamped tickets.

Although four years of emergency rule were lifted last week — everywhere except in strife-torn Natal — in the latest of a string of reforms by President F.W. de Klerk, political analysts and anti-apartheid activists believe it has left a dual legacy of black political militancy and traumatised former detainees.

"Ntuli's murder clearly indicated that restriction orders imposed under emergency rule contributed not only to repression but also to the death of individuals," said the Human Rights Commission, which monitors and investigates the condition of political prisoners.

Emergency regulations were imposed in 1986 to crush a nationwide uprising against white minority rule. They gave police and soldiers wide powers of search and arrest.

Under the emergency, Ellek Nchabeleng, an activist from a remote eastern part of Transvaal province, spent up to five hours travelling about 108 m (70 miles) a day to report to the nearest police station.

The trip cost him 300 rand (\$120) a month and was so time-consuming he could not hold a job.

Escaped

In 1988 Murphy Morobe and three other prominent black activists escaped from hospital, where they were being treated for the effects of solitary confinement, and sought refuge in the United States consulate in Johannesburg.

Pretoria was so embarrassed by their action it promised not to re-arrest them or ban them if they left the consulate voluntarily. They agreed.

The origins of the emergency can be traced back to a 1983 referendum vote by whites in favour of a new constitution allowing other races into the whites-only Parliament.

The coloured (people of mixed race) and ethnic Indian minorities were given a vote for a new, albeit segregated chamber but the black majority remained disenfranchised.

That omission lit the spark for protracted violence that has killed more than 6,000 people since September 1984.

Thousands of people were detained for anti-government activities — 50,000 were held were held at various times during the emergency.

The authorities used emergency rules to restrict the actions of more than 30 community organisations and barred the media from reporting details of unrest.

Disobedience

The emergency provoked detainees' hunger strikes, a civil disobedience campaign and worsened foreign relations leading to tougher trade sanctions against Pretoria.

Lifting the emergency became one of the main conditions set by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) for entering into full political negotiations with the government.

Psychologists say detainees who went on hunger strike to win their freedom did not respond to treatment. Anxiety and involuntary re-experiencing of trauma persisted after release.

"Release from detention did not mean that the trauma was over. The ex-detainee did not feel safe or secure," said a psychologist, who declined to be identified.

"The person was back to his pre-detention environment where he was confronted with the constant threat of re-arrest and re-detention," he said.

Analysts said the crackdown won the government only a short-lived respite from black opposition.

Activists adjusted to the new rules. According to Morobe, a leader of the ANC-allied United Democratic Front, much was accomplished underground. Activists worked in a quieter way and with less bravado, he said in an interview.

"The state of emergency may have removed the black leadership and criminalised peaceful protest, but it did not dissolve the bedrock (of black opposition)," he said.

"In reality the detention of recognised leaders only added to popular grievances."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1672 — French Army crosses Rhine river at Talhoys.
- 1683 — Turks began siege of Vienna; Rye House plot to assassinate King Charles II of Britain and his brother James, Duke of York, is uncovered; French fleet bombards Algiers.
- 1691 — Ahmed II succeeds Suleiman III as sultan of Turkey.
- 1798 — French forces capture Island of Malta.
- 1882 — Anti-foreign riots break out in Alexandria, Egypt.
- 1900 — Second German Naval Act aims at fleet of 38 battle-ships in 20 years.
- 1901 — Cuban convention makes that nation virtually a protectorate of United States.
- 1917 — King Constantine of Greece abdicates in favour of son Alexander.
- 1934 — Political parties are banned in Bulgaria.
- 1937 — Purge of Russian generals begins.
- 1940 — Japanese planes bomb Chungking, China.
- 1944 — Germans launch flying-bomb attacks against Britain.
- 1967 — Israeli declares it will keep some of ground won from Egypt, Jordan and Syria in six-day Middle East war.
- 1984 — US Secretary of State George P. Shultz insists US government has hard evidence that Nicaragua is providing war material to rebels in El Salvador.
- 1987 — Former Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa is sentenced to death on conviction of murder, arbitrary arrest and embezzlement of public funds.
- 1988 — Demonstrations erupt over controversial constitutional amendment making Islam the state religion in Bangladesh.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

Perception of threat changes

Warm US reception for Gorby

WASHINGTON: If one can draw any conclusions from the extraordinary warm and enthusiastic reception Mikhail Gorbachev enjoyed wherever he went was that the perception of the Soviet threat among Americans has changed. If one can draw any conclusions from the way President Bush treated his Soviet guest, it was that he wanted to strengthen him to be able to better withstand the tough times he is up against in his own country. Also, it became clear that neither side has yet a clear vision of the Europe of the future and that their respective visions for the future are incompatible.

Gorbachev argued in his speech at Stanford University that there are no winners of the cold war. Nevertheless, it is a fact that the West has achieved its objective. It is also clear that, although Europe is still divided, the dividing line has been moved from the centre of Germany to the border between Poland and the Soviet Union. What is not clear is whether the Soviet opposition to a United Germany in NATO is tactical, dictated by Gorbachev's own weakness as a leader, or whether the Soviets will gradually give in to the inevitable. The only way the Soviets can impede a united Germany in NATO is by keeping Soviet troops in East Germany and that will become more difficult psychologically and finally as time passes.

Safety Belt

Perhaps the best way to construct a new political frame work for Europe will be, as Henry Kissinger has proposed, to create a neutral safety belt consisting of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia between the Soviet Union and the rest of Europe, that however, would preserve a continued division of Europe which does not appeal to Gorbachev.

He wants the Soviet Union to become part of a new united Europe, he does not want it to be frozen out of Europe. He believes, quite correctly, that unless the Soviet Union is accepted as a full member of the new Europe, it will not get the kind of new trading relationship, the kind foreign investment and technology it needs to become economically viable.

That is also why Gorbachev was so anxious to get the trade agreement and Most Favoured Nation treatment on the record also why he met with so many American businessmen and bankers. That is why he warned those who remain on the sidelines that they would miss a crucial opportunity to get a foothold in the Soviet market, an opportunity that may not come again. It was a good try on his part to press American investors to put money into the Soviet Union. But as long as the Soviet economy remains out of control, he will find that an implied threat will not be convincing enough. He tried another implied threat when he told the Israeli government that he would halt Jewish emigration if Soviet Jews would be settled in the West Bank and Gaza. But again it did not sound convincing because halting emigration would interfere with his getting the most favoured nation treatment and with his efforts to pursue a more balanced policy between Arabs and Israel in the Middle East.

The issue of governmental aid did not come up, even though some Soviet officials hoped it would. The trouble is that any US aid would only be a drop in the bucket and wasted as long as the economy is in a mess. Furthermore, the president would get crucified in Congress and by the news media if he gave aid to the Soviet Union at a time he is reducing subsidies to school lunches, medical aid for the poor or refusing to fund improvements for the American road system — to mention only one of the major domestic problems. He can give aid to Poland or East Germany which were occupied, but not to the Soviet Union.

Soviet reporters did not only behave like Americans when they asked their leader some tough, even embarrassing questions. Gorbachev made no attempt to hide his surprise when he was asked about Yeltsin, his new and first serious opponent. But they were also amazingly direct and outspoken in private conversation. Most of them, though believe that once Yeltsin will be forced to come forward with his own detailed policies, his weaknesses will become obvious to everybody.

Yeltsin's bold jump into prominence may well have helped Gorbachev in Washington. Some of the concessions offered by Bush may not have happened had there been no Yeltsin threat. American officials not only have a low opinion of Yeltsin's mental balance, but they are particularly disturbed by his fervent nationalism, his unpredictability and



his tendency toward irresponsibility. The big question is whether he will become a thorn in Gorbachev's side or whether he will support his economic reform and thus help him to succeed and himself to gain credibility as a leader.

Outstrip

Gorbachev in contrast, is regarded here as a true world leader, a man who unleashed the changes in Eastern Europe which now threaten to outstrip him. He had the vision to recognise the need for profound changes and therefore deserves great credit for what has happened to the face and the soul of Europe. It is why Bush wanted to be as helpful to him as he could.

The outcome of the Washington summit failed to resolve the all-important question of the role of a united Germany in the future of Europe, but it strengthened respect for Gorbachev as a man and leader. He is a man one can argue with, as one official put it to me, who did argue with him in the talks here, he also described him as a warm-hearted human being, able and direct, full of vitality and easy to make contact with.

Gorbachev's aim for perestroika, as it is now perceived here, is to convert the Soviet Union into a Western type of economy with Soviet imprints, to create a multiparty structure in the Soviet Union, to promote a new deal between the central government and the republics, predicted on a system of an expanded federation, not a confederation, to usher in a relatively free economy and to celebrate for the second time the death of Marx and Marxism. It will be closer to the system that exists in France under Mitterrand or in Spain under Gonzalez rather than to the American free market which is by no means so free.

With various members of the Soviet Union demanding or seeking independence the question is being asked inside and outside the Bush administration whether it is in the interest of the United States to preserve the Soviet Union's unity or whether it would be politically more desirable to see it break up.

The view of the US government is that it would be preferable to preserve the unity of the Soviet Union but without the inclusion of the three Baltic states which have already opted for independence and whose occupation by the Soviet Union Washington never recognised. This is also the view of a majority of Americans. The dissenters are right-wing conservatives and radical Democrats. The first want to see the destruction of the Soviet Union because they consider it a menace, perestroika and glasnost not withstanding, and the latter because it puts great emphasis on self-determination for nations and races.

The reason the US government favours the preservation of the Soviet Union is that splitting up large countries into smaller entities creates

insecurity, leads to problems of keeping borders safe and makes governing generally more difficult. What would happen, for instance, if Azerbaijan became independent is uncertain because Muslims of Iranian origin live on both sides of the border. Would they want to change the border with Iran and if so in whose favour? Differences between Germany and France over who should control the Rhineland were one of the reasons World War II broke out, at least that was what Hitler claimed.

Example

The creation of the European Economic Community is an example of the belief that there is safety in larger units and in de-emphasising borders. The reason that the Western democracies are so eager to melt a united Germany into the European Economic Community and NATO is because most Europeans are afraid of a free-floating Germany that could throw its weight around Europe, supporting the West or the East depending on what suits it best at different times. When Gorbachev says, as he told members of Congress, that he favours the continued stationing of American and Soviet troops in Europe, it is because he wants an East-West balance, at least while the Soviet Union is so vulnerable internally. And the Bush administration wants to keep American troops in Europe because once they have returned home, it would be very difficult to bring them back to Europe, even in an emergency. And since the Soviet Union still has the largest land army, the greater number of nuclear weapons and relatively easy access to the centre of Europe, the NATO governments want a post-war settlement that allows some American troops — as hostages, as the phrase used to be — to stay in Europe. By its military status the Soviet Union remains a superpower, but as an economic power it is a Third World country.

There was and is a lot of guessing about Gorbachev's future, as he admitted himself with surprising candor at the press conference with Bush. No doubt he was the man of the eighties, but it is doubtful that he will also become the man of the nineties. Too many crises are going to be closing in on him. As one high Soviet official put it to me: "Gorbachev will probably survive the next two years, but not the following elections." Then he added thoughtfully: "I don't think Yeltsin is the man to succeed Gorbachev. There are quite a few able men available whose names are not well known, but who will attract public attention as time passes. The trouble is that Gorbachev has the power within the hierarchy, but not with the public."

Half in earnest, half jokingly, the same high Soviet official said to me, as we were speculating about the uncertainties of the Soviet Union's leadership problems: "That's the trouble with democracy, you can't be sure what will happen in the end."

Letters to the editor

National integration

SIR: The emergence of the MQM in Pakistan as a powerful minority group, strongly politicised and sophisticated in organisation, has dismayed many in various Pakistani circles. The ever-present apologists of political stability and those terminally infected by the neurosis of fear and disintegration argue that the presence of the MQM in the political scene of the country is likely to further escalate the process of destabilisation.

The underlying premise of the advocates of this perspective is to hold on to the prevailing socio-economic-political status-quo to attain relative stability. They see social and political intra-society conflict as counter-productive, oozing out of the ill-will and had intentions of a specific group or groups, and they insist that strong emotional involvement with the idea of Pakistan is the only reasonable and possible prescription out of this recent impasse.

Sociologists and anthropologists who have been studying intra-societal conflict contend that internal social conflict in a nation is likely to increase when the integrating mechanisms (process of integration) of a society break down.

In Pakistan, the emergence of MQM is simply a part of the political process that has gripped the nation given the absence of the integrating mechanisms and this reflects a fundamental drawback in the political system.

The recent polarisation of political issues between the MQM and several other political groups in the country is indicative of the void that has existed for a considerable length of time in charting humane problems in the fast moving industrial development of a country. National economic planning cannot be geared to providing job opportunities only; in a diverse society like Pakistan, a major effort has to be directed at socio-psycho-linguistic humane management strategies.

What has happened in fact is that over a period of 40 years the humane management strategies have been completely ignored; instead, successive administrations have been covertly involved in considerable strategic manipulation of ethnic and social unrest, and have pitched the intra-societal conflict against their adversaries and vice versa. Consequently, various groups in the country have been defining their own consciousness of group interests and values with considerable political clout and success; they have been establishing their self-identity by directing hostility outward. In this respect, the outbreak of violence is not a recent phenomenon in Pakistan; internal social conflict has been rampant in this country. The secession of East Pakistan and the accompanied violence can be understood within the broader conceptual framework of this notion.

Another fundamental factor that cannot be ignored and must be taken into consideration is that as a society moves from old institutional infrastructures to new evolving political systems, it becomes an imperative requirement for the system's maturation to alter the existing power relationships between the various strata of the society. In Pakistan before independence, the British administration had absolute control on decision-making. In the post-independence era, Pakistani bureaucracy has shared national decision-making with feudal elites (they have remained powerful during military and non-military rule) and the ruling echelons of the army. The periodic shift in power-relations has been between the bureaucracy, feudals and the army generals. Consequently, power-relations at the various levels of the society have never tilted in favour of the masses and their representative political groups. It would seem to be a reasonable assumption to make that with the advent of democracy in Pakistan, various political groups at different levels of society should attain a considerable input in the decision-making process and should acquire

reasonable power to impact a change in the power-relations structure of the Pakistani political edifice. To alter the existing political power-relations in Pakistan is a dire need; it can not be ascribed to an erroneous notion of a conspiracy theory against the state. The need for fundamental changes in power-relations is quite conspicuous now.

The role of the MQM in the contemporary politics in Pakistan must be understood in the context of the processes which grip nations as they go through development and change. Indeed, it must not be ignored that the MQM has elected status in the present political structure of Pakistan. Political, sentimental, strategic and social communication manipulation by the "powers that be" is almost certainly assured and presupposed in the present state of conflict.

What Pakistan needs now is the consolidation of the fragile democratic edifice, not by safeguarding the prevalent political-institutional status-quo, but by a dynamic reorientation to the new realities of an emerging democratic process in which power is shared, new groups are admitted in decision-making, discontent is accepted as legitimate grievance recourse, integration is willfully planned, less weight is accorded to social communications manipulation, and above all the shifting of power-relations in favour of the masses through institutional changes is deliberately encouraged.

Accommodation of diverse opinions and the public expression of this diversity is a fundamental prerequisite of a democracy. So far in Pakistan, the contemporary democratic experiment has shown signs of rigidity, symptomatic of the fact that the process of change has not been fully comprehended by a great many actors in the political stage of this country. Perhaps one can be optimistic of the future; after all, things have not fallen apart altogether.

Dr Haider Mehd, Shauwalik.

Nepal

Youth could bring Reds to power

KATHMANDU, (Reuters): The teenagers who rebelled against Nepal's all-powerful monarchy have won voting power that could swing next year's polls in the Himalayan kingdom in favour of the left.

A reformist interim administration, brought to power largely by youths who learned to face police batons and bullets, is fulfilling a pledge to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 for the Western-style elections promised by next April.

At least 100 people died in two months of unprecedented protest and police gunfire before King Birendra agreed in April to lift a 29-year-old ban on political parties.

Sacrifices

"Youths between 15 and 25 years of age made incomparable sacrifices and it is for this reason the voting age has been reduced," said 75-year-old Ganesh Man Singh, figurehead leader of the successful democracy movement.

Some independent analysts believe these votes will go not to Singh's liberal Nepali Congress Party but to its junior partner in the interim government, the communist United Left Front.

The government has told officials to start work this Friday on registering voters who will be 18 by October, 1990.

Nepal's high birth rate means there will be at least two million of them, about a sixth of the likely electorate.

Political science professor Lok Raj Baral of the National Tribhuvan University said he did not expect the youth vote to prove decisive. Some analysts warned against equating the young demonstrators' radicalism with communist beliefs.

Isolationist

But four decades after Nepal scrapped isolationist policies, its teenagers have more education than their parents, less fatalism about their country's semi-feudal poverty and more impatience in demanding 20th century jobs.

"People of 18 to 21 are opposed to conservative value systems and this must be what the leftists of this country are looking for," said a Western diplomat.

The Nepali Congress won a landslide victory in 1959 in the only previous multiparty election. It ruled for 21 months before King Birendra's father, King Mahendra, staged a palace coup and jailed its leaders.

It remained the one political party known in Nepal's remote hill villages. But its organisation atrophied.

Diplomats and Western aid workers credit the United Left Front with the organisational discipline that finally produced defiant crowds in the capital this year.

"At the forefront were youths who astounded bystanders with their irreverent slogans about the monarchy, previously kept sacrosanct, by Hindu belief in the king's semi-divinity and by arbitrary jail terms for the outspoken."

Handicapped

Nepal's communists remain handicapped by factionalism and have yet to transport their message to Himalayan villages accessible only to hillwalkers.

Here the youth vote could help the Nepali Congress undermine the influence of the "Panchas," the village elites who ran Nepal's old system of elected councils, or Panchayats, and who are now forming their own political parties.

The United Left Front, allying seven communist factions, is working on a moderate socialist image that some of its supporters fear could work against it in the polls.

"People previously committed to Marxism-Leninism are trying to transform their party into a socialist one, which is not very different from the declared goal of the Nepali Congress," said one communist sympathiser who asked not to be named.

"What difference will remain there for uncommitted young voters?" he asked.

Other analysts have no doubt where the teenage votes will go. "This decision is bound to be overwhelmingly beneficial to the left camp," said Manaranjan Joshi, until recently Nepal's deputy representative at the United Nations.

"People of this age group can afford to be idealistic," he said.

QUOTE ME

"The only way to stabilize the situation is to put out the fire. If the fire continues to burn, the chances become greater and greater that we'll end up with more oil in the water. We know it's more unstable since now, but we don't know how much more unstable because we don't know the nature of the damage." — An official on the likelihood of pollution from the tanker rocked by explosions.

"If I had won the first set I would have won the match, but I didn't. I played very bad. At that stage you just have to go for at least one of them. You have to try and play smart. I was just too sure I was going to win it." — Steffi Graf, who blew a 6-2 lead in a first set tie-breaker.

"Andre is an American from Las Vegas, so we thought he cowboy thing would fit in. We're trying to do something fun on the finals and to get people thinking of Andre." — Ian Hamilton, Nike's director of sports marketing for tennis.

"Fireboats are still cooling its decks. It had a few minor explosions last night, including a couple of explosions around midnight with no debris but a lot of smoke, and a couple of them in the early morning hours today." — Petty Officer Richard Miles in Galveston on the tanker rocked by explosions.

"Sometimes it's difficult because everyone is watching you and because you are a Maleeva they are expecting you to play very well. But they are good sisters. There are no better sisters. And they give me advice. So that is a benefit." — The youngest of the Bulgarian-born tennis sisters.

"There is definitely the strong potential for (a major spill). We can't do anything to collect the oil until that fire is put out." — Coast Guard spokesman Rich Muller on the fate of the oil tanker which was rocked by fire explosions in the Gulf of Mexico.

BUSINESS

Baghdad repays \$3.4b of its debt

BAGHDAD, Iraq, June 11, (AP) — Iraq has repaid nearly \$3.4 billion of its foreign debt so far this year, Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said today.

Saleh, who is also acting finance minister, summoned Baghdad-based reporters to his office to declare the repayment was made despite a decline in the price of oil earlier in the year.

"We paid our creditors \$3.418 billion according to our plans to reduce our indebtedness, which started in January," he said.

He did not identify the repaid creditors and did not say whether the settlements were in cash or oil. Iraq's total foreign debt is secret. Western estimates place it at between \$50 billion and \$65 billion, including some \$30 billion owed to neighbouring oil-rich Arab states.

Foreign analysts said that on the basis of agreements it signed last year and early this year, Iraq has undertaken to pay at least \$18 billion over the next three years, to cover both principal and interest.

"We are committed by all the agreements we signed to pay the debts according to a timetable endorsed by the council of ministers," Saleh said.

He added that Iraq has also stopped all dealings in short term credits in another attempt to restructure its foreign indebtedness.

He said the private sector would not be allowed to borrow from foreign sources to cover short term purchases of less than two years' duration.

The government has already instructed state-run enterprises to cease such borrowings in an attempt to make its debt servicing more manageable, he added.

The government was now able to finance such short term credits without borrowing from abroad, he said.

Saleh said Iraq had also concluded agreements with many developing countries to reschedule their debts to Iraq, which amount to \$1 billion.

He said some of these countries, which he did not name, have already started repaying their debts.

Iraq fell heavily into debt during its eight-year-long war against Iran, which ended with a UN-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988.

Crisis triggers price plunge

BANGKOK, June 11, (UPI) — The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) plunged about 4 per cent today on news of the resignation of the defence minister in a confrontation between the civilian government and the politically powerful military.

Brokers said the market reacted immediately to the resignation of Defence Minister Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh and word that military units around the country were rallying in his support.

The set index fell about 40 points from the previous closing of 1,033.52, exchange officials said.

They said they were still calculating the new index, but said it would be down about 4 per cent.

Chavalit, who resigned as army commander-in-chief in March to join the coalition government, was seen as representing the military in the cabinet and providing military support for the current government.

Brokers said his resignation could start a period of political instability that could affect the economy.

KD market quiet

KUWAIT, June 11, (Reuters) — Little business was seen on a quiet, featureless Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market today, dealers said.

There was some activity overnight, which dealt early morning at 1.12 per cent and was later bid at 8-5/8. Tomorrow's next and spot/next were being quoted around 8-11/16 8-7/16. Fixed rates were quiet, with some banks reporting no business at all, and rates were basically unchanged.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29284/94 to the dollar.

Jordan Airlines announces biggest loss ever

AMMAN, June 11, (Reuters) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline disclosed today it had lost \$7.6 million dinars (\$130 million) in 1988, the biggest loss in its 26-year history.

Omar Zoqash, vice-president for finance and investments, told the official news agency Petra that RJ had made a small profit of 1.4 million dinars (\$2 million) last year.

He was quoting from RJ's still unpublished annual report for 1988 and 1989, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters.

The government, legally liable for all RJ losses and guarantor of its loans, is

studying the report.

The report says publication of 1988 results was delayed because of political and economic changes in Jordan, the drastic devaluation of the dinar and changes in RJ management.

Former RJ chairman and chief executive officer Ali Ghandour resigned in August 1989 and was replaced by Khalid Abu Hassan as chairman and Husam Abu Ghazaleh as chief executive officer.

Ghandour is King Hussein's adviser on civil aviation and tourism. He has been abroad for at least four months and a source close to him said he did not

plan to return soon.

The new management brought RJ's accounting practices into line with international standards and launched an austerity plan which included slashing the airline's route network.

"Operating losses in 1987 and 1988 were due primarily to a vast over-stretched network with very low yields, especially on the longer-range USA and Far East routes," the report said.

It said the dinar lost almost half its exchange value in the second half of 1988, causing a book-keeping loss of 28 million dinars (\$45 million). This was included in the overall non-operating

loss of 67.9 million dinars (\$101 million).

The 1988 operating loss was 19.7 million dinars (\$29 million), but RJ showed a small operating profit of 2.2 million dinars (\$3.3 million) last year.

The airline's auditors, Saba and Company, approved the financial statements for the two years, but said: "The corporation is suffering from a deficit in its working capital and needs to maintain adequate financing for its operations."

Zoqash said RJ had foreign loans of \$183 million, including 125 million in

long-term loans, and local obligations of 29 million dinars (\$43 million) at the end of May.

This does not include leasing arrangements. Zoqash said RJ is paying \$7.5 million a month for Airbus and 171st aircraft which it will own when the lease ends, and almost \$850,000 a month for aircraft on operation lease.

He attributed RJ's chronic cash deficit to its small paid-up capital of 21 million dinars (\$31 million), borrowing to finance the deficit, unpaid debts to RJ of 24 million dinars (\$36 million) and fleet modernisation which by the end of 1990 will give RJ aircraft an

average age of four years. Zoqash outlined the airline's belt-tightening strategy and said routes to Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Athens, Copenhagen and Bucharest had been suspended. Frequencies of flights to New York and the Far East had been reduced.

RJ is also seeking to "optimise" its lease transactions and financing, cut overheads, and increase its profitability.

"The management early this year started implementing this strategy and feel confident that 1990 will reflect positive results," Zoqash said.

Saudi look for joint oil ventures in Asia

SINGAPORE, June 11, (Reuters) — Saudi Arabia is looking at possible joint ventures in the dynamic growth markets of the Asia-Pacific countries, a Saudi oil executive said today.

Hussein Linjawi, president and chief executive officer of Saudi Arabian Marketing and Refining Co (Samarec), told the oil and money conference here.

"Samarec is already evaluating some preliminary ventures in storage and distribution facilities in the Asia-Pacific," he said.

"We are also seeking to establish long-term relationships with major end-users such as petrochemical companies, bunker suppliers, utilities and refineries," he said.

Asia-Pacific countries are expected to remain the focus of oil demand growth into the 1990s, with growth rates of about 3.5 per cent per year for Japan

and five per cent for the remaining countries expected over the next 10 years, Linjawi said.

"South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, India and Pakistan will probably show continued demand growth above the regional average."

Perceptions of rapid growth in oil consumption are leading to many new proposals for refinery expansions in the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

"If all the planned and proposed additions are completed, crude distillation capacity in the region will increase by some two million barrels per day (bpd) over the next 10 years," Linjawi said.

"However, regional demand is projected to rise by about five million bpd during the same period," he said. "Even assuming improved utilisation of existing capacity, products imports

from outside the region will have to increase."

The Middle East refiners will have a significant role to play in meeting global incremental demand, particularly in supplying Asia-Pacific markets, he said.

The regional trend toward the lighter barrel will continue, Linjawi said. Demand for light and middle distillate products is expected to increase by three to five per cent per year, while fuel oil demand is expected to grow at only one or two per cent.

"The result will be that the incremental regional product demand over the next 10 years will be about 90 per cent light products and middle distillates," he said.

Rising demand for the lighter end of the barrel will worsen the situation of future light refining capacity in the Asia-Pacific region. "New conversion

capacity will be required to avoid product imbalances," Linjawi said.

This is because existing capacity within the region is operating at high rates of utilisation, and incremental crude supply is likely to be heavier with a higher sulphur content than the current regional average, Linjawi said.

Environmental concerns will also have an impact on refining. Japan has completed its lead phasedown and South Korea will require unleaded gasoline by the early 1990s. "In general a level of 0.15 grammes of lead per litre will be the norm by the year 2000 in the entire region," he said.

Samarec is considering a programme for upgrading its facilities to phase out lead from gasoline and reduce fuel oil fields, he said.

Strategy aims at changing the structure of economy

Fast reform urged in E. Europe

BASEL, Switzerland, June 11, (Reuters) — Eastern Europe must switch quickly to the free market because a gradual change would entail considerable risks, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said today.

The BIS said in its annual report that a step-by-step approach adjustment problems and action on all fronts was necessary to overcome bureaucratic inertia and resistance to reform.

The bank's analysis adds to the growing weight of Western expert opinion in favour of Polish-style shock treatment and rejects attempts to find a "third way" between socialist central planning and free markets. "A strategy aimed at gradually changing the structure of the economy — either by introducing only a limited number of liberalisation measures or by confining the reform to certain sectors — could be fraught with considerable risks," it said.

"Fast experience of reform programmes suggests that partial reforms are likely to meet with only partial success and that, in particular, attempts to introduce only some market elements will fall short of creating real markets."

The International Monetary Fund and the European Commission have both praised Poland's radical reform plan and concluded that the gradual approach to change stands less chance of working.

The BIS, which acts as a central bank to the world's central banks, said the failure of centrally planned economies to "deliver the goods" was a major reason for the dramatic changes that swept through Eastern Europe in 1989.

It also predicted the collapse of centrally planned regimes would influence Third World countries which would be more likely to opt for market-based solutions to economic problems.

"The manifest shortcomings of systems relying wholly on government directives cannot fail to influence policy choices in specific areas between market-oriented and interventionist approaches," the BIS said.

It said so far only Poland and Hungary had undertaken far-reaching reforms and were clearly on route to a market

economy.

There had been encouraging signs of success in Poland but a sharp rise in unemployment demonstrated the short-term cost.

In Hungary, excessive wage demands, rising inflation and widening current account deficit pointed to the need for more restrictive income, monetary and fiscal policies.

In the Soviet Union, limited reform had only weakened the effectiveness of the existing economic system without constituting a significant move to a market economy.

The BIS said the inevitable shocks attached to reform would seem on the face of it to favour a gradual approach. But it said there were three good reasons for opting for the fast track:

■ Price liberalisation, decentralisation of decision making, strict financial discipline and an indirect style of economic management had to go hand in hand.

■ Only if market forces were allowed to come into play quickly could bureaucratic inertia be overcome.

■ Even limited steps towards liberalisation would immediately produce major adjustment problems and resistance to further change could jeopardise the whole reform process.

The BIS said East European nations had to abandon controls over prices, wages and interest rates, review ownership laws and eliminate restrictions on the private sector. Financial markets had to be set up along with a new legal framework to govern business and protect consumers, savers and workers.

The West had to remove restrictions on the purchase of high-technology products and free up their markets for imports from Eastern Europe. In addition, the West would have to provide financial support from both private and official channels.

"The shift to new economic policy mechanisms will be a very difficult task which will require enormous patience, good judgment, determination and perseverance from the new leaders and those who put them in power," the BIS said.

Move to set up Deutschmark accounts

East Germans throng banks

EAST BERLIN, June 11, (Reuters) — East Germans are besieging banks in order to open special accounts that will allow them to convert a big chunk of their savings into West German marks after German monetary union next month.

Although the deadline for starting up the accounts is July 6, queues several hundred metres (yards) long and waiting up to four hours to get to the service counter suggest many citizens are anxious to get the paperwork over as quickly as possible before the merger with Europe's most powerful economy.

They will need the accounts to swap up to 6,000 East German marks per person (\$3,550 at the inflated official rate) into West German marks at par from July 1, with the rate changed at a two-to-one rate.

"Go to the bank of the line," a youth yelled at an old man who had walked past a queue today with the mere aim of picking up an account application form.

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," muttered one pensioner in the queue.

When banks started handing out applications and huge lines formed a week ago, some East Germans complained wryly that they had finally found a queue worth joining after 40 years of lining up for chronically short goods in shops.

In their first free elections last March, East Germans

voted massively in favour of rapid integration with the West. But their early dreams of prompt accession to a world of fast cars, stereo sets and foreign holidays have now given way to more sober expectations.

Most now expect the overnight introduction of market forces to sink already low living standards and shut many uncompetitive state enterprises, increasing the previously unknown problem of unemployment before economic growth starts to take hold.

Some people in winding queues in front of banks and post offices in East Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig and other cities said they would need West German marks just to stay afloat at first, with frills like tropical holidays far down their priority list.

East Germans queued in East Berlin today said their main aim was to obtain a receipt allowing them to draw from their accounts up to 2,000 West marks (\$1,180) in cash in the first week of July, when the summer holiday period starts.

The rest of the savings exchanged into West German currency will be freed for withdrawal on July 9, when automatic tellers will start dispensing West German marks.

Out of a population of 16 million, officials expect some 10 million applications for exchange accounts to flood into banks in the next few weeks.

secured a "stand-by understanding" from several that they would be prepared to enter into transactions.

He also did not rule out seeking a bridging loan from Western central banks but again said Gosbank had no plans at present to raise such funds.

"I would not exclude the possibility of organising for future needs some sort of stand-by arrangement with the BIS," he said. "But I don't think we shall be pressing for such a facility."

The Soviet Union has long carried out gold swaps in deals with Western commercial banks conducted by the banks for foreign economic relations, Vneshekonombank. Its deputy chairman, Eduard Gostev, told Prava recently they had

totalled 50 to 150 tonnes.

But Geraschenko said swaps between Gosbank and Western central banks would be a new departure and could offer Moscow several financial advantages.

The maturity of a swap, effectively the date at which Moscow would have to repurchase the gold, could be longer than in the commercial banking market. It might also be easier to roll over the deal.

The Soviet Union does not publish details of its gold production or reserves but Geraschenko said he would back any move to be more open with statistics. Expectations that Moscow was about to step up gold swaps have contributed to a steep slide in the world price of the metal to about \$355 an ounce.

Iran plans to boost its currency

NICOSIA, June 11, (Reuters) — Iran unveiled a bold plan today to break the back of an unofficial foreign exchange market and halt the slide in the rial's value.

Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hussein Adeli told Tehran radio restrictions on hard currency for both importers and exporters would be abolished as of Saturday.

He said a new rate would be fixed that day for importers and exporters, eliminating the need for merchants to obtain hard currency on the tolerated unofficial market.

He gave no indication what the rate would be. Last year Iran introduced a competitive rate of 800 rials for some selected imports but this failed to kill off the free market.

Moneychangers say any new rate would have to come close to the free-market level to have any lasting impact.

Adeli said the plan was aimed at boosting the value of the rial, pegged at 70 to the dollar since 1954 but trading at around 1,400 in the bazaars of Tehran.

The rial, plagued by falling exports and the 1980-88 war with Iraq, has also nosedived against other major currencies.

"By selling hard currency to these applicants, we will be able to do away with substantial demand for hard currency on the free market. Naturally we expect the scheme to have a positive effect on the rate," Adeli told the radio.

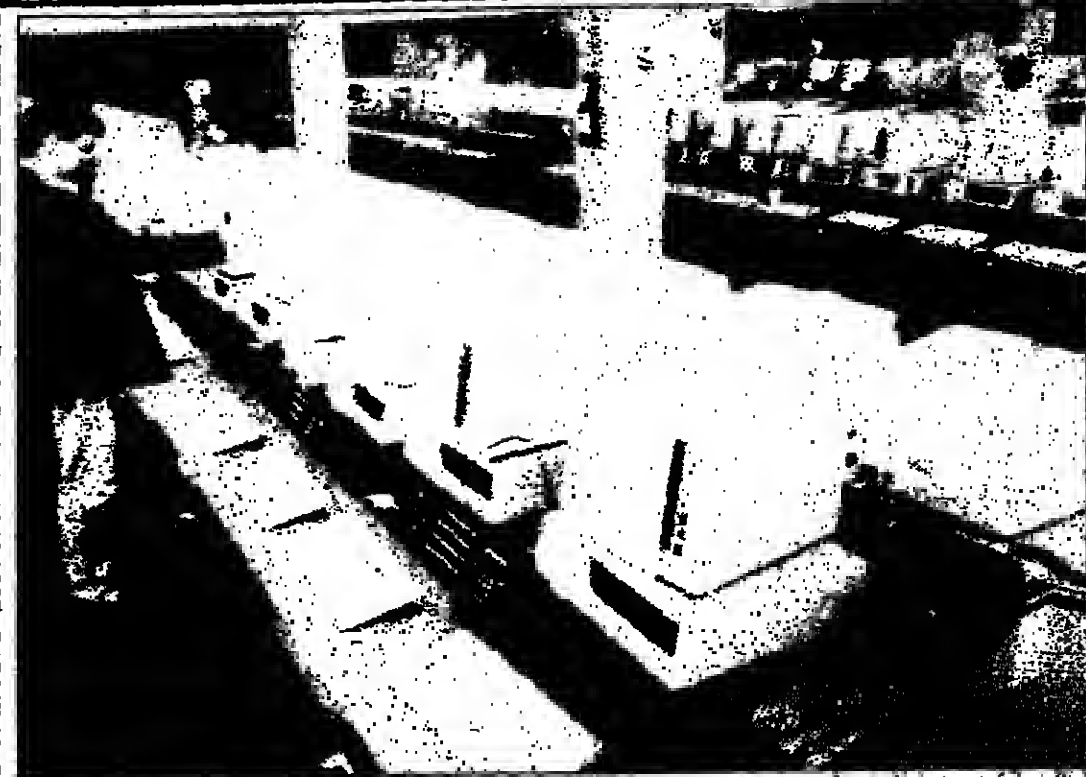
He said the new rate would boost exports by giving industrialists access to hard currency for raw materials and machinery.

Iran used only 25 per cent of industrial capacity last year.

Ali Pakpour, a London-based moneychanger who mainly swaps rials for dollars, said the scheme would help only if the government sold large sums of its precious hard currency to merchants.

Moneychangers say up to \$3 million changes hands in Tehran business daily, with most of the demand from businessmen starved for hard cash from official channels.

The bank has in the past announced several measures to stop the rial decline.



Waiting for auction

A prospective buyer surveys some of the hundreds of computers for sale in the former trading area of the now bankrupt Drexel Burnham Lambert on Sunday in New York. Computers and office furniture are among the items on display at Drexel's former headquarters for Tuesday's auction. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD eases against dollar

BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate eased slightly against the dollar ending the week at 291.92 fils compared with its week before last closing of 291.68 fils. The KD was higher against the pound sterling, ending the week at 493.30 fils compared with its week before last closing of 493.30 fils. The KD was higher against the DM ending the week at 172.98 fils compared with its week before last closing of 172.26 fils.

The KD was also higher against the SFR ending the week at 203.00 fils compared with its week before last closing of 205.00 fils.

The KD was lower against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 249.56 fils compared with its week before last closing of 248.05 fils. The KD was lower against the Australian dollar ending the week at 225.65 fils compared with its week before last closing at 224.37 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 433.76 fils compared with its week before last closing of 434.05 fils. The KD traded slightly lower against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last.

As for the KD money market rates, short-term interbank offer rates, traded slightly lower compared to the week before last. One month and 3 months rates traded at 8.68 per cent - 8.81 per cent range compared with 8.75 per cent - 8.81 per cent range the week before last. On the other hand both 6-month and 12-month rates traded at 8.81 per cent - 8.87 per cent compared to 8.87 per cent the week before last.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced a new T-bill issue No. (124) of KD120 million with effective and maturity dates of June 13, and Sept 12, 1990.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices recorded their sharpest drop in two weeks, as profit-takers continued to gnaw at the stock market's recent gains. Also bearish comments by Bartom Biggs, an influential Morgan Stanley investment strategist, had an additional dampening effect on share prices.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2935, and closed lower at 2862, recording a loss of 38 points over the previous week's closing of 2900.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange declined slightly over the week with little stimulus provided by the Wall Street market that opened higher but soon declined. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2379, and closed lower at 2366, recording a gain of 4 points over the previous week's closing of 2362.

Share prices on the Tokyo Stock Market declined sharply over the week due to the weaker yen and to volume tapering off sharply after early volatility on settlement following the Thursday expiry of the June Index Futures and option contracts expired inventory away from the market. The 225-share Nikkei index opened the week at 33,609 and closed lower at 32,993, recording a loss of 102 points over the previous week's closing at 32,891.

US dollar

The US dollar traded firm throughout the week. It seems that the dollar's continued strength is partly attributed to a concerted monetary union in East and West Germany and political uncertainty in the Soviet Union. Also the Federal Reserve appears to have no intention so far of lowering US interest rates.

US auto sales fell 6 per cent in late May, an improvement over the prior sales period but still down on a year-to-year basis due to sluggish demand.

The tumble in world oil prices should help take some of the edge off US inflation and trim the US trade gap, but it is unlikely to yield a windfall for the economy.

The US dollar is expected to trade with a steady to firm tone, but a lack of fresh factors will likely keep movement limited.

Nikkei stock average: 32540.18

(-453.11)

Volume: 250 mil shs

Yen exchange rate: 154.10

Name of stock	CI	CB	Yokohama Co	4110	-39	Natsumi Corp	1600	+20
Advantech Corp	3840	0	Kajima Corp	1940	-30	Nomura Sec	2300	0
Alpine Electric	2020	+20	Kawasaki H I	942	15	Okuma Mach	1720	-20
Asahi Chem Ind	2180	0	Kobe Cast Iron	1830	-20	Onoda K Co	2060	+10
Asahi Glass	1770	-40	Kokusai Elec	4950	+30	Osaka Cement	4790	-30
Asahi Ind	910	-10	Kumagai Ltd	1220	+10	Onoda Cement	5300	-10
Asahi Sec	1870	-30	Kvaerner Corp	800	-10	Osaka Steel	2930	-10
Cannon Inc	800	-20	Maru	3110	-20	Sanjo Elec Co	961	-9
Casio Comp	1780	0	Matsumita Ind	3660	+20	Sanyo Elec Co	6300	0
Dai Nippon Printing	1580	-20	Mazda H I	2300	0	Shimizu Chem	1720	0
Daichi Sangyo	1940	-30	Mitsubishi Corp	717	-13	Shimizu Elec	1320	-20
Daikin Ind	2380	0	Mitsubishi Estate	1530	-30	Sony Corp	8600	-30
Daiichi Corp	2740	-10	Marubushi H I	1610	-40	Sumitomo Elec Ind	1540	-40
Eaton	1870	-10	Mitsui R E	1900	-50	Takachi Chemical	600	-15
Fanuc Ltd	7190	-40	Mitsui Corp	1760	-10	TDK Corp	1730	-20
Fujitsu Ltd	4230	+40	Mochida PS	3830	-10	Tokai Marine & Fire	6750	+90
Himech Credit	1410	-40	Mon Seiki Co	4130	-90	Tokyo Elec Power	4510	-10
Himech Ind	1630	-30	NKK Corp	2060	0	Tokyo Electron Ltd	4540	-10
Himech Koki	2290	-10	Nippon Sec Co	1620	-20	Toshiba Electric	1820	-20
Himech Ltd	1540	-10	Nippon Steel Corp	1170	-10			
Himech Metal	1510	-10	Nippon Steel Corp	991	-11			
Honda Motor	1760	-10	Nippondenso	2230	-30			

Tokyo shares

PHILIPPINES NATIONAL DAY

AN ARAB TIMES SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

President Corazon Aquino's Independence Day message

Foster unity, urges Aquino

MALUGOD KONG BINABATI ANG SAMBAYANANG PILIPINO SA PAGDIRIWANG NG IKA-92 NG ANIBERSARYO NG ARAW NG KASARINLAN NG ATING BANSANG PILIPINAS.

It is my pleasure to greet the Filipino people on the celebration of the 92nd anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence.

Even after 92 years, our country's fight for freedom and democracy is far from over. For we have yet to free our people from the threat of renewed tyranny from poverty, disease, ignorance, homelessness, and conflict. We must carry on our struggle to create a genuinely independent Filipino nation with as much perseverance, sacrifice, and effort as those of the fathers of Philippine independence.

Today, on this day of independence, we shall continue to build the foundations of our social, political, economic and cultural development. We shall do so at all times to make the Philippines internally strong and sufficient, and its people enjoying a wide range of human action and choice. We shall protect the weak and seek a faster and more humane response to the age-old problems and grievances of our people. We shall strengthen the moral foundation of our society, foster unity and brotherhood under an aegis of peace and justice.



President Corazon Aquino: urging unity

Take active part in nation's growth

LAST year I mentioned to you how many countries in Latin America, in Asia and Africa, as well as in Eastern and Central Europe were using our people's power revolution in 1986 as a model for a return to democratic processes. Today, we are seeing more countries take the path of self-determination and the road that they have taken is that of democracy and freedom.

Now that we have restored our own Democracy and live in that rarefied atmosphere of freedom, it is time for you who are abroad to determine for yourselves whether you should now come back and begin your task in building our nation for you now hold in your hands the technological tools of development and progress. True, the foreign exchange that you have been sending to your families has helped our economy. You have been called heroes. But now we say, that is not enough. You should now give of your person for others.

Consider that we are Filipinos:

from the time of Lapulapu to the martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino and others, we have fought, lived and died for that identity. We are free SMCLN since the dawn of time, when our ancestors roamed the hills and valleys of these seven thousand islands, they did so upon their will and not on the whims nor caprices of a monarch or an autocrat SMCLN and, we are far-seeing SMCLN next year will begin the last decade of the twentieth century and we shall, within that period, become a nation that shall achieve not only a newly industrialized country but also, and with your help, return to our former position as the most developed country in Asia.

On the occasion of the Ninety Second Anniversary of our declaration of independence, I say, think up your options and, when you have determined them, take an active part in the growth of our nation. *Mabuhay.*

Raul S. Manglapus, Secretary, Foreign Affairs.



Raul S. Manglapus, foreign secretary

Ambassador's message

Promoting co-operation

Bismillahi Rahman Ir Rahim

I JOIN her excellency, President Corazon C. Aquino, in extending warmest greetings and most-sincere felicitations to the good people of the Philippines enjoying the bounties and goodwill of the great people of Kuwait.

The freedom and independence we gained after 92 years is still vulnerable with threats and challenges demanding sacrifice and discipline. The restoration of democracy after the fall of the dictatorship that almost plundered our economy and left our "show-window" of democracy in Southeast Asia almost in shambles was only achieved through the supreme sacrifice of a great

hero and martyr, the late Senator Ninoy Aquino. In the life of our country as we look forward today into a new beginning, to ensure the stability of our restored freedom and democracy, we have to solidify our unity within the bedrock of justice, discipline and peace.

In our history, the Filipino steadfastly remained a brave and dignified citizen. It is in this context that our primordial goal is to urge every expatriate worker of ours, to maintain loyalty and sincerity to their employer, for this exemplary harmony can be a "morning star" to guide our two brotherly countries — Philippines and Kuwait — towards development, solidarity, and peace, and in

holding to the strength of our respective destinies.

Today, while the theme for this year's Independence Day is: *Bayan Muna: Kagalingan at Lakas ng Demokrasya*, let us resolve to make the Kuwaitis our perpetual friends, and therefore, in the context of the promotion of closer co-operation, let us always reflect the vibrancy of our friendly ties. Finally, we must rally behind and solidify our support for our beloved President's solemn commitment to justice and prosperity for all Filipinos.

Mabuhay and Marhaba
(Dr.) Mauryag
Mohammad Tamano,
Ambassador of the
Philippines.

'God gave us the gift of freedom, we must work to keep our freedom and to progress befittingly ... as a free and proud people'

All these will entail even greater struggle and sacrifice, for there can be no progress without pain, no gain without sacrifice, no victory without its price. Although God gave us the gift of freedom, the rest we must work to keep our freedom and to progress befittingly and appropriately as a free and proud people.

Today, let us resolve once again never to relinquish the freedom, nobility and dignity that our forebears won at such great cost and sacrifice in human lives. Let us not pause to rest, or flag in our efforts for our goal is distant and recedes with every lessening of our resolve and exertions. Rather, let us forever be guided by the fixed star of nationalism, and our bodies and souls be emboldened by the spirit that moved our people 92 years ago.

Sa araw na to, minsan pa tayong pa tatayong muling mangako nang matatapat at lalamin na hindi natin hahayagang maglaho ang kalayaan, kakakilaan at karangalanang ipinaglaban nang sukulan ng ating mga dakilang ninuno, maging katumbas man ang sariling buhay, matupad lamang ang maitin ng bansa's mamamayan.
Mabuhay tayong lahat

(SGD) Corazon C. Aquino
President of the
Philippines.

Foreign policy

Major thrust in Middle East

FIFTEEN years ago, the Middle East was a remote region for ordinary Filipinos, except for a few Filipino Muslims who visited the Islamic holy lands in Makkah and Madinah. From 1975 to 1988, more than three million overseas Filipino workers were employed in 127 countries, 450,000 of them went to the Middle East, out of which 38,900 went to Kuwait. The economic benefits reaped by these "unsung economic heroes" had trickled down to benefit more than five million dependents. When Philippine traditional exports were on the wane during the previous regime, the remittances of these workers amounting to almost \$2 million saved the country's economy which was at that time, already on the brink of collapse.

Now, the Middle East is

becoming the epicentre of thousands of Filipinos in search of gainful employment.

In return, the Philippine government has launched a vigorous campaign to develop closer relations with our brothers in the Arab countries. Due to the exodus of Filipino overseas workers and the immense trade potentials in these countries, there is a plan to open new diplomatic missions in Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain.

The Philippines' link to Kuwait has become very vital to the revival of the Philippine economy especially considering that Kuwait was the Philippines' second largest oil supplier in 1989, contributing nearly 14 per cent to the country's national oil import.

The Philippine Amanah Bank,

which provides loans and credits for the support of the livelihood projects of the Muslims in Southern Philippines, was revived mainly through the efforts and interest of Middle East financiers who participated in this venture, notably amongst them, Sheikh Saleh Kamel of the Dallah Group of Companies in Jeddah and the Bank Al Baraqah of Amman.

The Philippines has also demonstrated its concern and support for the Palestinian cause through the formal recognition of the State of Palestine on Sept. 28, 1989. In turn, the newly-accredited Palestinian Ambassador to the Philippines, Mohammed Hassan Hamdona, states as recent as last May 26, that "the State of Palestine would maintain a hands-off

policy from Filipino separatist movements in the South." He added that his country would not interfere "in the internal affairs of the Philippines," and would respect its territorial integrity and its sovereignty as a nation. The recent establishment of the Muslim Mindanao Autonomous Region in Southern Philippines is now a "Morning Star" for the billion Muslims to extend economic support for their long-time heightened brethren, for solidarity and peace.

Insha'Allah, all these efforts between our two great countries, Kuwait and the Philippines, will continue to move in this positive direction, for their greater benefit.

Sofronio R. Cortel,
Legal Officer and Attache.

Arab investors needed for growth

'Stable environment'

AS the Philippines commemorates the 92nd anniversary of its nationhood, we greet our business friends and partners from the Middle East as well as our Filipino compatriots who are working and living in the area.

In this last year of the decade before we enter the 90's, the Philippines finds itself at another crossroad. In 1986, we were able to regain our political freedom. Today, we are charting a course towards economic growth to liberate ourselves from yet another shackles — the burden of underdevelopment. This is critical to preserving democracy in our land.

We have made good progress. Last year's GNP growth of 5.6

percent, although lower than the 6.5 per cent recorded in 1986, indicates a transition from consumer-led to a more stable investment-led growth. Foreign investments in project cost approved by the Board of Investments (BOI) more than doubled from 1988's US\$1.5b to US\$3.25b last year. While there was a slowdown in investments due to the failed December coup, the growth trend in the first quarter of 1990 is still obvious: US\$1.25b from 1989's US\$ 1.09b for an increase of over 14 per cent. Exports similarly grew —

from US\$7.07b in 1988 to US\$7.8b in 1989. Our import bill from Kuwait during the period exceeded US\$ 170 million while exports were only US\$8.9 million. We hope to improve our trade balance with you in the future.

We, therefore, invite more Middle Eastern business partners to look into the potential profit areas where they can join hands with us. The country offers both superior managerial talents and a skilled labour pool, abundant land and material resources. Some temporary limitations

in infrastructure exist but the basic investment conditions and environment are intact. Investors may especially wish to look into the investment opportunities available in Mindanao, which is now a special focus of the government's development plan.

On this celebration of our independence, we look forward to a fruitful and longstanding relationship with our friends, particularly in the trade and investment field.

Secretary Jose Concepcion, Jr.
on the occasion of the 92nd celebration of
Philippine Independence
Day

"Maligayang Bati sa mga Pilipino sa kanilang Araw ng Kalayaan Mabuhay ang Pilipinas"



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Kagapadala rin kasapagpapadala ng pera sa Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng The City International Exchange Co. W.L.L. — araw o gabii — Lunes hanggang Linggo. O alimanan sa mahigpit na 90 computerized on-line branches having banking hours.

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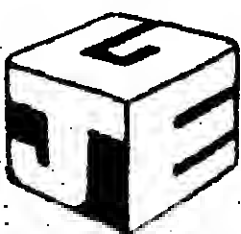
With best wishes to the people of Philippines

on their National Day

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Manny Inserto



Rod S. Manalo



Edward Racaza



Irvin C. Marcalda



Salvador Patungan

Kapilku

It is a great pleasure indeed in greeting my dear Kababayans, friends of the association and the Filipino community on the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of Philippine Independence.

The year 1989 for Kapilku was year of achievements and great success. During the first quarter of 1989, Kapilku started moving to fulfill and carry its objectives, that is, community service and welfare for the betterment of the community. It introduced the self-improvement classes or the free courses for all Filipinos, namely, Hair Science class (suklay at gutting sa kamalanan), cooking and baking classes. More than 300 students benefited from the courses which extended not only to Filipinos but to some of our Arab brothers and sisters.

However, there was also a less glamorous front to Kapilku — that of quietly providing a helping hand to the less fortunate members of our community through fund raising, counselling and care.

The forthcoming formation of Philippine-Kuwait Friendship Society, which is the brainchild of His Excellency Ambassador Dr. Maunag Mohammad Tamano, will foster unity & co-operation between Filipinos and Kuwaitis here and abroad. We in Kapilku are supporting this worthy project.

On behalf of Kapilku officers and members, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our Ambassador His Excellency Dr. Tamano and his lovely wife Madame Norie Tamano for their invaluable service and full support given to Kapilku which contributed to the grand success of its projects. To all Philippine embassy staff, supporters and the six Filipino organizations who in one way or another extended their support to us. *Mabuhay ang Pilipino.*

Manny Inserto
Outgoing President
The Association of Filipinos in Kuwait/Kapilku

Filcheck

ON behalf of the members and officers of the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait, I take great pride in greeting and joining my

Common interests, varied activities

Spok

"MABUHAY" to All Filipinos. We are pleased to be a part in rendering some happiness to our fellow countrymen.

Irvin C. Marcalda
SPOK — President

Filipino Cultural Club

MAN'S always searching for his own identity. Such endless quest is achieved in a single substance and we call it freedom. For many centuries, Filipinos fought hard and struggled to gain independence from the hands of tyrants and colonizers. Many times, a

community as we celebrate another glorious day, all I can say, "I'm proud to be a Filipino."

Salvador Patungan,
Executive Director/FCC.

Kamay

ON the eve of writing this piece, I found myself, by curious but genuine chance, browsing over the newspapers that have just arrived from the Philippines. When I had finished, I felt sad. Sad because I was struck with the appalling feeling that we've gone from a nation that fought so hard for its independence to a sovereign country that's been besieged by turbulence from our countrymen who are blinded by false ideology. I hate to bring up depressing thoughts at a time like this, but because this day has



Grace Fe N. Covarrubias

Flasick

I WISH to take this opportunity to greet my fellow countrymen a happy Independence Day. Let us continue our unified efforts towards making our vital contributions to the enormous task of nation reconstruction. As you toil hard away from our country, making enormous sacrifices by being away from your loved ones and families, you know that the seemingly insurmountable problems our country is facing is only temporary, since together, as one nation, we will be able to conquer the hardships that presently beset us. *Mabuhay ang manggagawang Pilipino. Mabuhay ang Pilipino!*

Grace Fe N. Covarrubias
For the Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait and the Alliance of Health Care Workers in Kuwait.

the 21-year reign of the Marcos dictatorship. The battle for independence has been won. Sadly, we still have to face another battle. The battle of power which is the most dangerous. We are in that phase now. The greatest danger comes not from the oppression of external factors but from within our society. The extremist elements, whether on the left or the right, who are ready to exploit any situation to their advantage.

Today, we are witnessing a period of transition in the Philippines. And such takes time. We need to discourage all attempts to turn back the clock and encourage all efforts that help our country relaunch its movement towards reform and thus contribute to improving the lot of the Filipino people.

Rod S. Manalo,
EOD/Kamay.

Filipino groups in Kuwait take an active part in the welfare of their community. They also hold cultural, social and sporting activities for the thousands of Filipinos who have made a home away from home. Here, Arab Times carries messages from some of the prominent organisations whose presidents greet their Filipino compatriots on the occasion of the Independence Day.

Maraming Salamat po!
Families and friends bid you well and goodbye
In your quest for your dreams
You travelled so far
Long hot summer days,
lonely cold winter nights
Challenges are great,
keep your spirits high
Here you are now
but it's not forever
Enjoy, be strong, save
your hard-earned dinars
Count on your blessings,
be cheerful and kind
Kuwait will provide all
the things you desire.

Eng. Edward Racaza
President Filipino Chess Club, Kuwait (Filcheck)

Filipino warrior has proven his valour, integrity and spirit of nationalism.
History shows the illustrious achievements of Filipino heroes. These are living examples which are the biggest wealth of our nation. They reflect the real identity of every Filipino. Hence, as the exponent of Filipino culture and traditions — we preserve and utilise these legacies in more meaningful and relevant presentations through songs, dances and drama depicting our own national identity in international standard.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Filipino Cultural Club and the entire Filipino com-

community, we should reflect and ask ourselves, "Still we continue to live in a society of violence and weapons? Is this our way of rewarding our achievement of freedom?" Perhaps, we have forgotten that the essential values of independence include peace and harmony, respect for law and human rights which every member of our society must enjoy.

Ninety-two years leave so many traces of how the Filipino people struggled and fought for their independence. It dates back from the day the Philippine flag was first unfurled in the province of Cavite to the 1986 EDSA Revolution which toppled down

Meaningful relationship

ON the occasion of the 92nd anniversary of the Philippine Independence Day, I take great pleasure in greeting the President of the Republic of the Philippines President Corazon Aquino, the government of the Philippines and all the Filipinos in Philippine and in Kuwait.

Thanks to the President of the Republic of the Philippines President Corazon Aquino, the government of the Philippines for recognizing Palestine and to appreciate the efforts of Senator Mamintal Tamano, senator Leticia Ramos Shahani and Secretary Raul S. Maoglapus for the Philippine government's support and recognition of the state of Palestine.

It is the hope of the Muslim world that the Filipino community united with the rest of the Muslim world support the state of Palestine for the liberation of Palestine and the Aqsa Mosque so that all the Muslims and Christians can freely visit the holy shrine of Islam and Christianity in Jerusalem which Zionists are usurping now.
My long association with the

Filipino community here in Kuwait for more than a decade now, was friendly and meaningful for both to our dear Filipinos and to us.

I am very optimistic that with the formation of the Kuwaiti-Philippine Society it will bring closer ties between the Kuwaitis and Filipinos.

The Filipinos in Kuwait must be proud of having a very aggressive and dynamic gentleman as their ambassador. His Excellency Dr. Maunag Mohammad Tamano whose personality, knowledge, efforts and the helping hands are extended to all Filipinos in Kuwait regardless of their standing in the community.

Join me in congratulating his excellency Dr. Tamano for all his efforts and a job well done and the respect he gained from all the Kuwaitis and the Filipinos in spite of the short time he has been in Kuwait for less than one year.

Eng. Basil S. Abugosh
Managing Director
Abugosh Int'l. Estb.
Hadi Ligaya.



Eng Basil S. Abugosh

Philippines-Kuwait trade ties

Manila wants to export more products to Kuwait

IN 1989 (January-December), Philippines' total trade with Kuwait amounted to \$181.1 million whereas Philippine exports totalled \$8.9 million and imports from Kuwait amounted to \$172.2 million.

On top of the list of Philippine exports to Kuwait are fresh bananas, pineapples, ready-made garments, fresh and frozen marine products, processed foodstuffs like tuna, sardines, fruits and ethnic foods, artificial plants, furniture, handicrafts and cigarettes.

In the 1990s, priority products for promotion to Kuwait are ready-made garments, toys, home furnishings, furniture and parts, leather goods, processed foods, rubber tyres, auto batteries, room air-conditioners and refrigerators.

The Philippines, has a trade deficit with Kuwait, due to its heavy importation of oil and by-products. To help redress the imbalance of trade, the Philippines is seeking to export more products to Kuwait from the Philippines and investments which will alleviate to the recovery of its beleaguered economy — especially in areas of trade and investments in the Mindanao region. Potential areas of investments by Kuwait



Gili B. Herico

in the Philippines are in oil exploration, fuelling of the Philippine Islamic Bank, joint venture between Kuwait Petroleum Co. and Philippine National Oil Co. in oil refinery in Mindanao or Palawan, stocks/bonds and real estates, joint ventures with the private sectors in manufacturing concern like ready-made garments, fur-

nitures, processed foodstuffs and aqua-culture.

With this in mind, the Philippine government is expected to pursue the conclusion of RP-Kuwait economic trade agreement and investment guarantee agreement as testimonies of RP government desire to protect and increase the confidence of Kuwait's investments in the Philippines. It is expected that these agreements will be finalised during the forthcoming visit of Secretary Jose S. Concepcion, Jr. of the Department of Trade and Industry to Kuwait in the middle of this year.

Achieving these objectives will mean a lot to the country — to combat and reduce poverty among Filipinos and in particular to our Filipino Muslims in the Mindanao region. Therefore, make the Philippines your preferred source and discover why the country's top quality export products and technical services have conquered the world and above all, the Philippines is a safe profitable area for foreign investments.

Gili B. Herico,
Trade Representative,
Philippine Embassy.

Focus on Mindanao

Investment strategy

THE Department of Trade and Industry under the leadership of Secretary Jose S. Concepcion, Jr. is undertaking a programme for hastening the economic development of Mindanao particularly — the Philippine island group where large segments of the population are Filipino Muslims. This island covers 112,687 square kilometres composed of 22 provinces and divided into regions 9, 10, 11 and 12 with a total population of 11.6 million.

At present, regional industrial centres in Mindanao are as follows:
1. Region 9: Zamboanga City
2. Region 10: Misamis Oriental
3. Region 11: Davao City and Gen. Santos City
4. Region 12: Iligan City and Maguindanao

As of 1988, Board of Investments' approved projects in region 9 and 12 (where majority of the population are Filipino Muslims) amounted to 915.0 million pesos for 17 projects generating 1,676 employees. One of DIT's strategies for this

programme is to enhance economic relations between the Middle East countries and the Mindanao region, particularly in mutually beneficial areas of trade and investment.

Identified major agro-industrial programme for Region 9 are: integrated rubber production and processing, integrated saba banana production and processing, integrated cassava starch mills, integrated sweet potato production and processing, integrated coconut production and processing (activated carbon), black pepper production and processing, fish processing, seaweeds production and processing, fruit processing, mat weaving, rattan furniture, gifts, toys and housewares (shellcraft). For region 12 they are: integrated corn feed mill and processing of chicken, cattle and goats, integrated corn and cassava starch mills, integrated cotton textile mill and garments, intensified and integrated rice production and milling, intensified and integrated coconut production

and milling (activated carbon), banana production, fish processing, fruit production and processing.

Middle East participation in Mindanao initiatives is expected due to common Muslim heritage with Filipino Muslims, among the highest per capita income in the world and opportunities to assist fellow Muslims in the Philippines in mutually beneficial activities in trade and investments. One of the major tasks of this project is to adopt a province programme (province-country matching) wherein Lanao Del Sur Province will be adopted by the state of Kuwait.

By the end of 1991, this programme hopes to be able to achieve DIT's target of \$1 billion worth of total Philippine exports to all Middle East trade partners, as well as \$1 billion worth of Middle East investments in the Philippines.

Gili B. Herico,
Trade Representative,
Philippine Embassy.



ANG OMAN EXCHANGE CO. LTD.

Ay taos pusong bumabati kay Presidente CORAZON C. AQUINO at sa Ambassador ng Pilipinas at sa lahat ng mga kababayan naming Pilipino na naninirahan dito sa Kuwait para sa araw na ito na Kalayaan ng Bansang Pilipinas.

Para sa madaliang pagpapadala ng pera Pesos man O Dolares sa inyong mga mahal sa buhay ang OMAN EXCHANGE ay mayroong espesyal na pamamara-an TELEX (Bank to Bank) o TSEKE man. Ang aming Exchange Rates ay kayang tularan ng iba ngunit hindi malalampasan at ang aming mga charges ay lubhang mababa para sa inyong kasiyahan, sa Tseke ay 400 fils lamang at 1.250 naman para sa Telex na matatanggap ng alin mang banko sa Pilipinas sa pangangasiwa ng PNB at BPI.

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Mrs Corazon C. Aquino

The President of

The Republic of The Philippines,

His Excellency Ambassador

Dr Maunag Mohammad Tamano

And Filipinos in Kuwait,

on their country's

INDEPENDENCE DAY

ANG PINAGKAKATIWALAANG PANGALAN SA NAKALIPAS NA
"2 DEKADA" SA PAGHAHATID-BIYAYA SA BUONG MUNDO!

"MAY BUKOD TANGI PO KAMING PAMAMARAAN SA
PAGHAHATID-BIYAYA SA ATING MGA MINAMAHAL SA
PILIPINAS MAGING PESO O DOLARES SA PAMAMAGITAN NG
"TELEX TRANSFER CALLS O BANK DRAFT." BUKAS PO ANG
LAHAT NG SANGAY NAMIN PARA MAGLINGKOD NG TAPAT
LALO NA SA PALITAN NG PESO O DOLARES SA
MAGANDANG HALAGA."

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Co-operation reflects vibrant, friendly ties

It is indeed an honour for the Philippine Embassy in co-operation with Kapiku, Flaskik, Pbak, Spok, FCC, Filcheck, Kamay and KPBL to host this celebration of the 92nd anniversary of Philippine Independence at this most lovely Messilah Beach Resort in the very beautiful city of Kuwait.

It is also a distinct privilege on my part to extend to you, our distinguished guests, the participants, and to you all — my beloved countrymen and the lovely ladies, including our beloved children, the warm welcome of the Embassy and the Filipino organisations in Kuwait. May I also add, that this tradition we started today, is a manifestation of our sincerity to care and appreciate the achievement of the true heroes, sometimes called the "Unsung Heroes" of our beloved homeland — you the expatriate workers enjoying the bounties and goodwill of the great people of Kuwait.

In the life of our country we look forward to a new beginning, to ensure the stability of our restored freedom and democracy, we have to solidify our unity within the bedrock of justice, discipline, and peace.

Today, while the theme for this year's Independence Day is: *Bayan Muna: Kagalangang Akin Ng Demokratasya*, let us resolve to make the Kuwaitis our perpetual friends, and therefore, in the context of the promotion of closer co-operation let us always reflect the vibrancy of our friendly ties. And also, we must rally behind and solidify our support for our beloved President's solemn commitment to justice and prosperity for all Filipinos.

Today, let me reiterate my many thanks to the officers and members of all Filipino organisations, and our Arab friends sponsoring the Pistas Pinoy '90.

THERE is no better time to visit the Philippines than now. Three years after the "people power" revolution installed the new government of President Corazon Aquino, the Philippines is seeing the start of a renewed period of growth. Celebrating their new-found freedom with customary high spirits, Filipinos are opening their country to foreign visitors as never before. Those that heed the invitation will find one of the most fascinating and largely undiscovered corners of Asia, a country of infectious gaiety and hospitality.

By turns bathed in brilliant sunlight and buffeted by tropical storms, the Philippines is a 7,100-island archipelago that strings along 1,854 kilometres of South China Sea and Pacific Ocean. The mixture of Indo-Malay, Chinese, and Spanish strains among most of the 55 million Filipinos accounts for the sense of fun and openness that foreigners justly admire. The people and culture ante-date by hundreds of years the coming of the Spanish colonisers to spread Christianity. Islam was widespread and Manila a fortified Muslim settlement when the

Message of Ambassador Manayag Mohammad Tamano at the Philippine pre-Independence Day celebration, Messilah Beach Club, Friday, June 8, 1990



Ambassador Tamano and Mrs. Tamano at the Pistas Pinoy '90

As the chief representative of our country in the State of Kuwait, I welcome opportunities like this to speak before a splendid gathering and organised groups of Filipino citizens and Arab friends in this beautiful country. It also, gives us an opportunity to interact with the local community, I consider this interaction very important in enhancing the friendship and understanding between our two countries. Moreover, it gives us a chance to briefly exchange views and identify concrete possibilities for co-operation in specific areas. With your presence here, I would like to concentrate on how we can promote trade investment co-operation between the Philip-

pines and Kuwait. Knowing very well that the stability of a country is a prerequisite in attracting business, the Aquino administration has implemented broad political and economic measures that will ensure long-term stability and growth.

On the economic front, we have dismantled trade monopolies and have moved towards privatisation of government corporations. We have encouraged greater private sector initiative and consultation with government at levels never attained before. We have adopted a gradual import liberalisation scheme in order to make our domestic products competitive

in the world market.

For our Kuwaiti business friends and partners we wish to inform you that the Philippines is endowed with the abundance of certain resources. We have an ample supply of skilled-labour available at very competitive cost. We also have vast tracts of agricultural and industrial land, as well as of resource-based raw materials like timber, metals and minerals. More important, we have Filipino entrepreneurs, both small and medium-sized, who are eager to enter into various forms of business relationship with you in Kuwait. Many of these companies are ongoing concerns which can benefit from infusions of capital and equipment, either for progressive

expansion or modernisation. These are things that your companies in Kuwait can very well provide. Such combination of your resources and ours would enable the parties concerned to come up with products of high quality and price that will be competitive internationally.

I mention all these in the hope that I would be able to dispel whatever doubts you may have about the viability of doing business in the Philippines. This is not to say, however, that we are content to rest on those early results of our efforts, as indeed, we hope to do a lot more to realise our full economic potential.

We in the Philippine Embassy will be happy to assist you by way of information or facilitation with Philippine government or private entities in relation to your business activities. Please do not hesitate to call on us.

May I reiterate my deepest thanks and everlastingly grateful to the following business enterprises responsible for the accomplishment of our Pistas Pinoy '90:

1. The administration of the Messilah Beach Resort; 2. Dollarco Exchange Co.; 3. Al Ghanim Co.; 4. Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Co.; 5. Haid Ligaya; 6. Jade International Trading Est.; 7. Boodai Cargo Express; 8. Nasseem General Trading Corporation; 9. Modern Saloon and Music Island Recordings; 10. Trico International (FWD) Ltd.; 11. Maharlika Novelty Store; 12. An Nuzha Garage; 13. Filipino organisations in Kuwait and Filipino restaurants such as Mahuhay, Kahayan, Anak, Maharlika, etc. etc.

Finally, allow me to assure you, that her Excellency President Corazon C. Aquino and our Foreign Secretary, the Honourable Raul S. Manglapus will always have a special place in their hearts, for you.

riding taxis here is that most drivers can speak English. Here are some useful reminders for the regular taxi driver.

To the more adventurous traveller, a more creative way of cruising the streets of Manila is with the airconditioned Love Bus, the Light Rail System, the jeepney, the tricycle, and even the horse-drawn "calaca."

The Love Bus has given riders the opportunity of passing through Manila's traffic in air-conditioned, pollution-free comfort. It has designated stops at the airport, Ermita, Makati and Quezon City. A fee of P7.00-8.50 is paid upon boarding, depending on zone distance.

The electrically-powered Light Rail System or Metrorail, introduced in the early '80s has made it possible for passengers to ride from Monumento to Baclaran (the two main stations) in only 30 minutes. Under normal traffic conditions, it would take at least one and a half hours. There are about 20 stations in between and travelling time per station is only 30 seconds. The standard fee is P2.50; 1.00 is for short-distance (less than five stations).

Tourism

Enchanting experience

Spanish arrived in 1571. More than a hundred different ethnic groups still practice their ancient cultures in the southern islands of Mindanao and Sulu and in the highlands of Luzon. However, it is the colonialism of America which has made Filipinos Coke-drinking Western-style demo-

crats that is very much in evidence today.

Which is not a bad thing necessarily for the Westerner visiting the Philippines. There are resorts that can compare favourably with the best international playgrounds in terms of amenities for those contemplating a

European-style beach holiday. For those looking for break and don't mind about luxury, there are relatively undiscovered places in the southern islands where cheap guesthouses without electricity is usual but where there is more beauty and peace than in any of the resort areas.

Finding your way in Manila

TRAVELLING in Metro Manila can be very enriching especially if you are well-informed of the proper transportation vehicles to suit your purpose.

Driving in Manila is on the right-hand side of the road. The cars you may see here have the handbrands of Mitsubishi, Toyota, Datsun, Renault, Volkswagen, Ford, Nissan, and the Mercedes Benz, which is very popular among the elite. If you are a business traveller

and your work demands quick routines, you may employ the services of a rent-a-car firm. Established rental firms are found in most hotels in Manila. Rates depend on size and make of car as well as length of use.

According to Florante Mojar president of Abacus Car Rentals, auto prices are significantly higher here than in Western countries because of the 300 per cent importation tax imposed on cars in this country. Mojar fur-

ther adds that local manufactured cars are hardly relieved of this sanction because most spare parts are imported. Car rental rates can range from P650.00-P1,500.00 per day, including insurance of the vehicles. For those who prefer chauffeured assistance, drivers can be hired for an additional P100 per day.

If you find renting a car too expensive, the next alternative would be to hail a taxi from your hotel. One advantage of

Filipino fashion goes to Europe

WESTERN EUROPE has been looked upon by fashion-conscious people as the cradle for new styles, colours and trends in clothing and other fashion apparel.

In keeping pace with the world's leading fashion trendsetters, the Philippines will be among those who will showcase their craft in four international trade fairs to be held in key cities of Europe in September.

Igado Dessous, September 6-9, Dusseldorf, West Germany. Organised by the Igado International Modemmesse Krnen KG, Igado is one of the largest garment fairs in Europe. This quarterly fair is considered the model in marketing compared to all major fashion fairs in Europe. The fair features buyers' semin-

ars, fashion shows and marketing symposia. This month's fair is expected to be attended by some 2,000 exhibitors from major industrial nations and other countries around the world and 52,000 buyers from big and small firms, retailers, stores, soft-goods houses, wholesalers and purchasing associations.

GDS International Footwear Show, September 19-21, Dusseldorf, West Germany. The GDS International Footwear fair is one of Europe's most popular industrial exhibition event held by-annually (in March and in September). A wide array of footwear and leather-goods of the latest styles and designs are exhibited by over 700 manufacturers which attract more than 50,000 trade buyers from more than 500 participating countries.

Philippine exhibitors will be showing a wide range of high-fashion shoes made of reptile skins, natural fibres, textile and leather.

25th Overseas Import Fair, "Partner for Progress", Berlin, West Germany. The Overseas Import Fair has proven to be an important access to the German and the European market particularly manufacturers and exporters from non-European countries producing primarily non-traditional consumer goods. Representatives of buying organisations, mail order houses, chain stores, department stores, retailers and trade agents from all over the world regularly attend this annual trade event. A special attraction for garments quota is granted to the exhibitors and buyers attending the fair.

Our warmest Greetings to the GOVERNMENT and the PEOPLE of PHILIPPINES on the occasion of their INDEPENDENCE DAY



ALSAWAN COMPANY (W.L.L.)

GSA

Philippine Airlines

Door to Door Service

AIRLINES

TOURISM

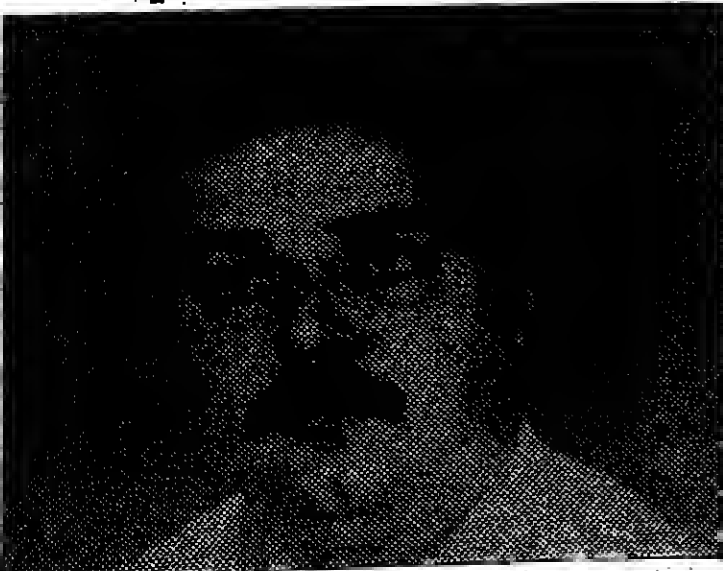
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Corporate strategy



Cargo sales manager, Boodai Aviation.

Boodai Aviation, takes this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Corazon Aquino and the people of Philippines on completion of 92nd years of existence, on their National Day.

Boodai Aviation, with a comprehensive know-how in all sectors of aviation, is an experienced, renowned, versatile agent in Kuwait. With a team of professionals, it extends its utmost help in binding closer ties between the people of Philippines in Kuwait & Philippines, by establishing a sole, independently equipped department to meet the service level requirement of the individual Filipino identified as "Mahuhay Door to Door Service."

Established especially to handle the travel and freight, it offers a wide range of facilities to the Philippines, people in Kuwait. Door to Door service is likewise increasingly becoming the basis

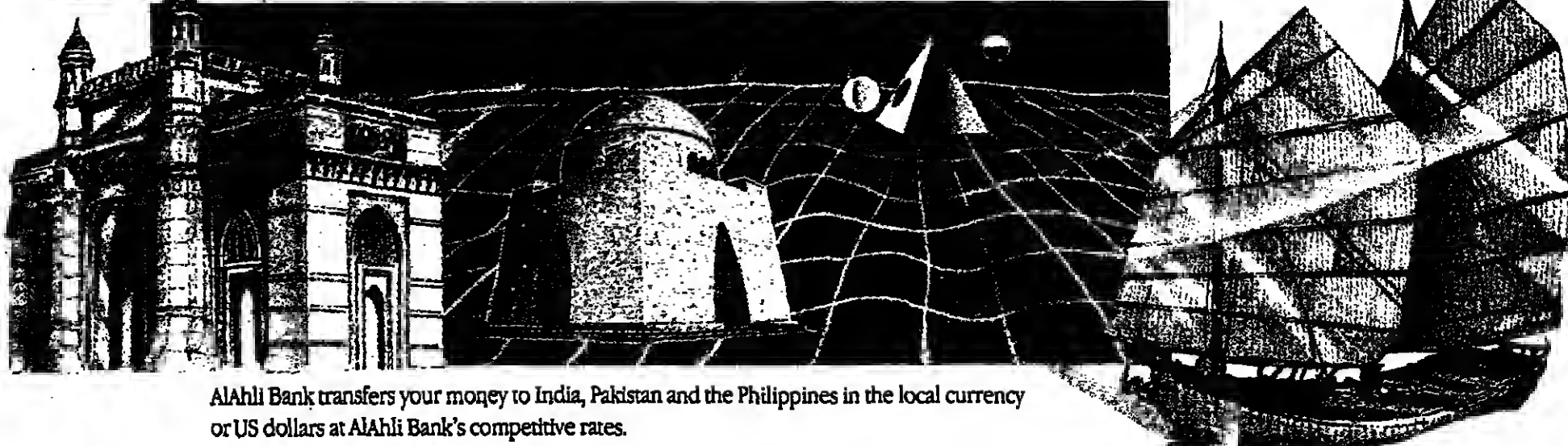
of modern distribution system that is the specialty of our collectably deliver network system. Representing a far greater asset is the know-how of each individual member of the cargo team their ability to meet the challenge with flexibility and resourcefulness, and service minded orientation.

Boodai aviation's many years of experience in transporting, airfreight and seafreight are clearly reflected in the sum of total of individual services which make for sake. Dependable cargo handling.

Integration of airfreight into corporate strategies is destined to take on mounting importance in the future, to enhance better ties between the people of Philippines in Kuwait and Philippines.

Cargo Sales Marketing Manager
Boodai Aviation

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Muslims of Mindanao

The government of Philippines is now focussing on developing the southern Mindanao provinces, which are mostly Muslim areas. A development strategy for the area has also been prepared, which includes encouraging foreign investments in various developmental projects. Above: Tausog dancers enjoy themselves at the annual Balo Zamboanga Festival, a high-spirited occasion.

By Lamberto L. Marin
Labour Attache

THE Philippines, an archipelago of 7,107 islands, has a total land area slightly smaller than Japan and about the same size as Italy. Its climate is generally tropical with inter-changing wet and dry seasons. The Filipinos are of the Malayo-Polynesian stock much alike the Thais, Malays and Indonesians.

Philippine history dates back as far as the 4th century. By that time, the Filipinos had been trading various goods with the Chinese, Indians and the Arabs. As early as the fourteenth century, the Arabs have made their influence in the Philippines when Sultan, situated in the southern Philippines, embraced Islam. Today, Islam is the second largest religion in the country. In 1521, when Spain colonised the Philippines, Christianity was introduced. For over 350 years, Spain ruled the Philippines. Inspired by the great Dr Jose Rizal and other Filipino nationalists, the Filipinos revolted against Spain in 1898. Just when the Filipinos were beginning to win

the conflict, the Americans stepped in and again colonised the country. The Americans, the new colonial rulers, introduced mass public education and self-government. It was only in 1946 when the Filipinos truly regained self-rule.

Now, with a population of 60 million, half of which are under 20 years of age, the Filipinos are a hospitable, generous, fun-loving, patient and resilient people.

Blessed with an abundant source of raw materials for different industry, good weather, rich in agriculture and manpower supply, the Philippines still has to go through difficult economic times. From being one of the most promising developing Asian nations in the '50s to the '60s, it went into an economic decline in the '70s that saw the Philippine economy in shambles; negative economic growth, and a staggering foreign debt of \$28 billion.

It was in the late '70s that impoverished, jobless but highly qualified and multi-skilled Filipino workers turned to other countries for work. After the construction boom in the Middle



Lamberto Marin, labour attache

East coupled with increased oil prices, it was only logical that a majority of Filipino overseas contract workers were brought to the Middle East.

The Middle East started the import of labour in the construction industry. In Kuwait, Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Co. (AG&P) and Engineering Equipment Inc. (EEI) are at the forefront. AG&P has a 15,000 fully integrated English-speaking workforce experienced in varied construction

work. It has considerable international exposure having undertaken projects in Algeria, Iraq, Yemen, Angola, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and in Kuwait. To date it has completed 300 major industrial plants and other projects in the industrial and petrochemical plants, onshore and offshore petroleum and gas facilities in Asia, Africa and in the Middle East.

In Kuwait, it has undertaken contract work in mechanical, electrical, instrumentation and part of the civil works on the three gas compression trains in the liquefied petroleum gas facilities of KNPC in Mina Ahmadi. With Campenon Bernard, it has sub-contracted precast concrete expressway flyovers such as the Ghazali Expressway. It has also undertaken the fabrication of process vessels for a desalination plant with Sumitomo Heavy Industries of Japan. Presently, it is involved with CGEE Alstom in the erection, commissioning and maintenance operation of power substations in Kuwait. AG&P is listed among the top 250 inter-

national contractors by Engineering News Record.

With the award of several prestigious projects, EEI entered the Kuwait construction market in 1984. EEI completed its major sub-contract works valued at \$185 million in Kuwait in the first quarter of 1989. It has also undertaken the electro-mechanical and instrumentation works of KNPC Mina Abdullah Refinery project as sub-contractors of Braum Transworld Corporation of USA. The project involved the expansion, upgrading and modernisation of the refinery process facilities which lasted for four years until its inauguration on February 20, 1990. Presently, EEI is about to complete 93 units of a housing project in Qurnia with the National Housing Authority of Kuwait. EEI is also recognised by the Engineering News Record as one of the top 250 contractors in the world.

In about 1983, the construction boom in the Middle East tapered off. The manpower requirements of the Middle East then turned to maintenance, social services and the business sector.

Furniture

Classic, modern designs

The durable rattan — a secondary forest product — is the most commonly used in Philippine furniture-making. Light finished rattan furniture is a mainstay in the country's export furniture menu, accounting for 71 per cent and growing at the rate of more than 25 per cent annually over the last three years.

High-end rattan pieces from the Philippines are among the exquisite furniture showcased in some of the biggest names in American shopping like McGuire, Brown Jordan, Shelby Williams, and Bloomingdale. Many of these sets come from Cebu where the leading manufacturers are based; among them, Pacific Traders, Interior Craft of the Islands, Mindanao Rattan, Rattan Originals, and Mehitabel.

Designs of Philippine rattan furniture are cosmopolitan and versatile enough to suit both indoor and outdoor settings, although most pieces exude a cozy, country elegance. Several modern pieces are bound with leather thongs for added durability and more trendy look.

Wicker furniture, popular in the past, is today experiencing a tremendous revival in the Philippines. Alongside such non-traditional materials as coconut, stone, and even tobacco, wicker provides fresh inspiration in Philippine furniture and furnishing innovations.

Philippine wood furniture and furnishings are sought-after by buyers abroad because of their eye-catching grain and colour, as well as for their extra-ordinary fine texture and durability.

Recent styles exhibit designs that are a combination of wood and other indigenous materials, particularly rattan and bamboo. Bone-inlaying, superbly and meticulously designed in intricate patterns, is part of Filipino wood-working tradition.

It is the same excellent tradition that has brought international fame to local wood furniture designers and manufacturers, notably Berenguer-Topico and Edgar Ramirez whose works adorn some of the finest homes in the United States.

The world-famous Philippine mahogany, or launa, is the preferred wood furniture material because its natural sheen is ideal for nearly all furniture pieces. Narra, of which 40 per cent of Philippine export wood furniture is made, is also favoured for its exquisite natural finish.

Also included as among the best-known Philippine woodwork are the top quality doors being exported to the United Kingdom. Made of the strongest timber, these doors pass UK standards, even exceeding the norm established for fire resistance testing of doors being shipped to Britain mostly by South American countries.

New chic buri colours
Fast conquering the world furniture market is the buri, once used exclusively for hats and bags.

Furniture and furnishings usually crafted from buri are barrel chairs, stools, book and display stands, headboards, coffee and end tables, plant holders, lampshades, dividers, and wall decorations.

THE Philippines enjoys the luxury of manufacturing toys which suit children of all ages.

Board games and sporting goods

Board games made in the Philippines come in a variety of colours and sizes, makes and uses to suit one's hobbies, interests and temperaments. There is a wide choice of table games ranging from the simplest to the most complex mind exercises.

Chess boards are made of Philippine wood; chess pieces are carved out of wood or handmade in leather. Dart boards are of white and black felt-covered cork spheres set over a wood base. Steel- or tungsten-tipped darts were removable and adjustable flights are intended for better pulse control.

For the more outgoing sports buffs, the Philippines offers a wide range of fishing, sailing and water skiing gear. Philippine-made boats are functionally designed and have all the standard safety features, plus a few

Toys for all ages

optional appointments for style and greater comfort.

High-quality sports equipment for cycling, golf, weightlifting, basketball, volleyball and baseball are also available and exported for children and adults.

Rediscover the Philippines, and see for yourself the broad range of quality consumer products, just within your reach.

Stuffed toys
Non-allergic fabrics, cotton thread, plush, polyester fibrefill, acrylic stuffing, lace, ribbons, toy eyes and nose, hair materials. From these come the exceptionally adorable stuffed animals and dolls that withstand years of hugging and tugging. They are as precisely cut, as perfectly pressed, as impeccably sewn, as those made elsewhere. At times better. Statistics can prove that stuffed toys have dominated the export performance of the industry over

the past years; accounting for 80 per cent of the total export in 1987. With 34 stuffed toy manufacturers having an annual registered capacity of 40 million pieces, this sector is likely to maintain its position.

Dolls
Somewhat fancy. Rather unique. An endless variety. For example, a period doll, meticulously sewn and elaborately embroidered; a carved doll, dressed in what is well considered high fashion; a knitted doll in chromatic array; a porcelain doll, delicately elegant and formally costumed; a felt-and-cardboard doll, simple, stunningly original.

Next to stuffed toys, dolls are the most popular toy exports. According to the 1980-1984 figures, this sector has established an export growth trend of 27.48 per cent.

Wooden toys
The likes of model planes and cars, alphabet puzzles, basic blocks, etc.; made of acacia, or pinewood, or Philippine mahogany, or wicker, or bamboo. Made with a deftness. The characteristic details, the fine finish, the varnish, the use of non-toxic materials.

With handcrafted wooden toys from the Philippines, mass production compromises give way to the intricacies of demanding craftsmanship and tradition. The 200 wooden toy manufacturers registered, with a production capacity of more than 200 thousand pieces per year, see to it that traditional artisanship values are upheld in the face of modern technology.

Plastic toys
The flexibility and lightness of plastic allows the artist more room to design better functional pieces. Cartoon models to robotic parts, educational toys and nursery items, etc.



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the PEOPLE and
GOVERNMENT
of PHILIPPINES
on the auspicious occasion
of their
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

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CONGRATULATIONS
To her excellency
Mrs. Corazon Aquino,
President of
The Republic of the Philippines,
His excellency Ambassador
Dr. Mauryag Mohammad Tamano
and Filipinos in Kuwait on the
occasion of the
Independence Day
and looking forward for stronger
Kuwaiti Filipino relationship.

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دurrاني الدولية للتجارة

Outstanding Filipino workers selected

TEN Filipinos in Kuwait were named as the "outstanding Filipinos in Kuwait" to a contest that was introduced for the first time this year. The search for model Filipino workers was initiated by Ambassador Mauryag Mohammad Tamano.

The winners were selected on the basis of their performance in their respective fields and for their contribution to the Filipino community. The competition was launched to coincide with the 92nd Philippine Independence Day.

The Ten Outstanding Filipinos in Kuwait (Tofik) for 1990 are:

1. Professional Achievement: Dr. Emmanuel M. Cruz, research scientist, Mariculture and Fisheries Department (MFD), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

2. Business and Investment: Romeo Briones, CPA vice-president, Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC).

3. Community Service: Grace Covarrubias, clinical instructor, Psychological Medicine Hospital, Ministry of Public Health; president, Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait (Flassik).

4. Medical Staff and Allied Services: Araceli C. Cayaba, assistant director of nursing, Al Adha Hospital, Ministry of Public Health.

5. Sports: Engr. Jaime T. Tadeoa, president, Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBAK).

6. Cultural Promotion: Mila Corral, choir leader, Ahmadi Filipino Choir.



The search for 'model workers' is expected to inspire Filipinos to work harder. Above: Some Filipino girls who participated in last week's Pistang Pinoy '90 at Messilah Beach Resort.

Tofik awards announced

7. Restaurant and Hotel: Homer Messina, operations manager, Shakey's International (Frodo) of Kuwait; United Fisheries of Kuwait.

8. Service Workers: Holder of Visa 20 - Rose Iradiel, housemaid of Sheikh Sharifa Abdulla. Holder of Visa 18 -

Engr. Tambas Usman Solaimao, technical manager, Al Wazzan & Partners Company. Engr. Renato B. Bermillo, mechanical engineer, Yusuf Ahmad Alghannim & Sons.

The annual Makabayao Award measures the worthiness of the winner on the sole basis of

his assistance to distressed nationals and the Filipino community. The Tofik award recognizes social work in addition to sterling qualities and performance of Filipino workers in their line of work.

Ambassador Mauryag Mohammad Tamano, chairman

of All-Embassy Officers Screening Committee, hoped that this year's selection of Tofik award winners will inspire others to strive for excellence in their chosen field of endeavour, through dedication, loyalty and love for their country.

In recognition of invaluable contributions and support for the success of "Pistang Pinoy '90", the embassy likewise thanks and appreciates the following organisations and individuals:

1. Manuel Inerito (Kapilku), 2. Grace Covarrubias (Flassik), 3. Irwin Maracida (Spok), 4. Salvador Patuogan (IFCC), 5. Guillermo Lindimas (KPB), 6. Jaime Tadena (PBAK), 7. Rod Manalo (Kamay), 8. Alfonso Leomo Jr. (Ureka Group), 9. Surly Lago (Kay & Associates Tennis Club), 10. Edward Racaza (Filbeck), 11. Bobby Madyag (USA), 12. Sikaran Karate Club, 13. Jess Gonzales (AG&P), 14. Joe Sta. Maria (EEI), 15. Ultimateband Shuuiha (Ultimar Band Shuuiha), 16. Ryan/Amy Abdon (Maharlika Novelty), 17. Rod Cerezo, 18. Gil Baogalan, 19. Florence delos Santos (Mahuhay Restaurant), 20. Kabayao Restaurant, 21. Alghannim Group, 22. Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd., Murgah, 23. Supplying Store Company, 24. The City Int'l Exchange Co. WLL, 25. Al Nuzha Garage, 26. Al Naseem General Trading, 27. Modern Saloon, 28. Ambassador Stores, 29. Jade International Trading, 30. Boodai Cargo Express, 31. Hatid Ligaya, 32. Philippines Airlines.

'Health for All'

'Health for All' was the title of an exhibition that opened this week at the Kuwait Teacher's Society. The exhibition of photographs is held annually to create health awareness among the public.

It was opened by Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah. The president of the teacher's society Omar Al Ghurair welcomed the guests. Sheikh Jaber also distributed prizes to the participants.



Sheikh Jaber at the exhibition.



The prize distribution ceremony.

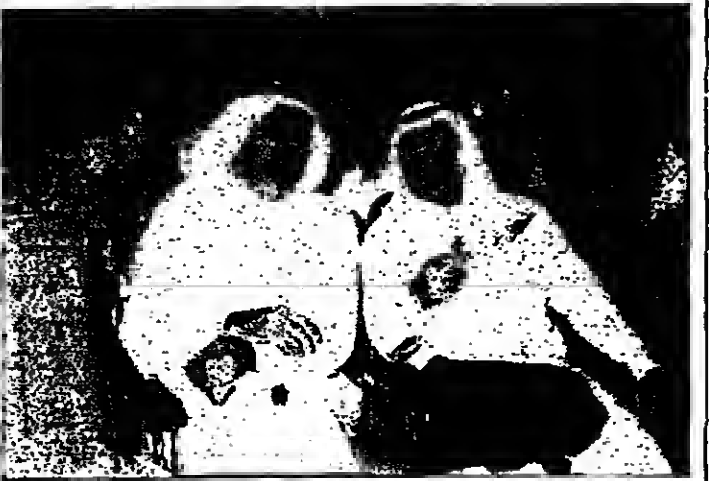


Tiny tots display karate skills.

French style

The students of the French school, Ecole Française, Surrah, put on a colourful variety show on the occasion of the End of the Academic Year Party, which was held at the Jamil School.

Students who excelled in studies and sports received prizes. Private Education Undersecretary Dr. Yacoub Al Sharrah was the guest of honour. A large number of parents attended the ceremony.

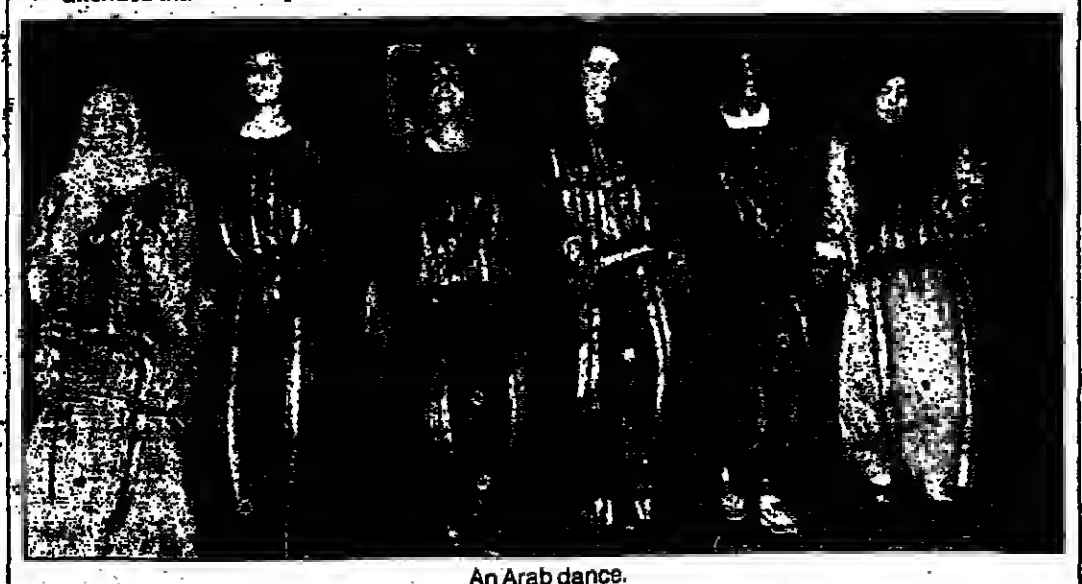


Owner Gharabally Al Gharabally (left) with Dr. Yacoub Al Sharrah.



Chinese Palace

A collection of woollen and silk carpets, furniture, and household items from China are on show at the Chinese Palace Exhibition, now being held in the lower lobby of Kuwait International Hotel. It has been organised by Sahara Al Kuwait Trading and Contracting Company. It runs daily until June 14. Above: visitors admiring the exhibits.



An Arab dance.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES



Charles Kimbrough, Joe Regalbuto, Faith Ford, Grand Shaud and Candice Bergen star in Murphy Brown, tonight on KTV2.

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Nahia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
9.40 Ifrah Ya Simsim
10.10 Good Morning
10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial; part 2, featuring Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar Madiha Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami
11.15 News Summary
12.00 Al Raseef Al Barad: Arabic serial, part 4; featuring Mahmood Saeed, Sbafigab Al Tall, Fuad Al Shomili
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.20 Songs
1.30 Sanavar: cartoons serial
2.15 Ailab Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial; ep. 4; featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Oasari, Moosa Al Hazim
3.00 Hadith Deeni: Hadith wa Imaan. Religious programme.
3.35 Masrah Al Mu'abib: Variety programme
4.15 Howar Wal Nagma: Hanan Sa'ati presents this local variety show
5.30 Sally: cartoon serial

6.30 Kan Wa Ma Kana: children's serial starring Samiya Jazairi, Nadine.
7.30 Variety
8.00 Al Anes Wal Jalees: cultural programme featuring Arab writers and their works.
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Rajul Wal Qiaar: Arabic serial
10.35 Variety
11.00 Laila Wal ghadhan: Arabic feature film, featuring Mahmood Yasseen, Mahmood Mursi, Samira Ahmad, Tawfiq Duqqao.
12.30 News Summary
12.35 World News via Satellite
12.50 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Lone Rauger
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: a variety show for young viewers from Disney

Sports Channel

5.30 Sport Review
6.00 World Cup: South Korea vs Belgium (Live)
10.00 World Cup: Egypt vs Holland (Live)

7.00 Quran and Science: "How Did Creation Start?"
7.30 Kate and Allie: Kate turns down Ted's marriage proposal. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: prepared by the Ministry of Interior; presented by Ali Noor. Focus on local laws.
8.50 Bordertown: On the untamed Canadian border amid the rowdiness of the 1880s likes the town where right and wrong are determined by the speed of the gun.
9.15 Horizon: Documentary
10.00 Murphy Brown: Murphy's mother pays an unexpected visit, upsetting her routine. Comedy. Starring: Candice Bergen, Charles Kimbrough, Regal Buto, Faith Ford, Grant Shaud.
10.30 The Saint's former girlfriend comes to the private eye for help.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

Overseas students party

June 27: 6 pm. British Council will hold a reception for all students who will be studying in the UK this autumn. The party will be for all students who have been offered a place at any university, polytechnic or college in Britain.

A set of briefing notes will be given to each student. Refreshments will be served. Students going to the UK are asked to call in to collect free admission cards from Kate or Lix in the Education Office, British Council, 2 Al Arabi St., Mansouriya.

Irish reception
June 16: Saturday, SAS Hotel, 6-8 pm. All Irish nationals are invited to a reception which will be hosted in honour of the Irish foreign minister and Irish ambassador. They will be visiting Kuwait later this month. For details contact Marwan Salamah - 2402628/9; or Ms V. Al Mutawa - 5621701/5622701.

Sri Lankan meeting
June 14: The Sri Lankan embassy has arranged a meeting for Sri Lankans to hold talks with Labour Minister G.M. Premadasa and his accompanying delegation will be visiting Kuwait on June 13 and 14. All Sri Lankans who wish to meet the dignitaries are requested to come to the Sri Lankan embassy on Thursday, June 14, morning.

Festival on ice
June 18-24: Ice Capades present Festival on Ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating champions and exhibition show.

Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 2530000/2533000

Hotels

At the Meridien
MANGO Festival: until June 14. At Fingon and Al Waha. La Brasserie Restaurant.
Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.
Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.
Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousouki music.
Indocean corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.
Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.
Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At Ramada Al Salam
Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental huffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
Al Gandoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.
Friday brunch: 12 o'clock to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays - Middle Eastern cuisine.
Al Jawahrah: Thursday special - special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

At Berdowne: BBQ on Thursdays in beach-gardeo restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Plaza:
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus meze.
Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.
Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets - Continental and Oriental cuisine.
Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.
Friday Family Lunch: Disney Fantasy on Fridays.

At the SAS
Bistro: Sunday/Wednesday - pasta night; Italian music.
Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.
Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus meze buffet.
Clock: snack bar - burgers, french fries, etc.

Music

Jukebox 6
June 12: 7-9 pm. Kuwait Players hold preliminary auditions for musicians and singers, all ages, at the Sunshine School, Salwa. The show will be produced by Ken Winstoo and Glenis Muckle with musical directors Oliver Lister and Liza Hoy. It will be presented at October end in Salmiya Cinema. Anyone interested in this production is invited to come along to the auditions. For details ring: 5740256/7; 5625316; 5615357; 5731782.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Hanafi Al Abaha (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouk Fishawi

Al Sahiya
Al Raqassah Wal Siyascen (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil

Al Hamra
Dead Pool
Starring: Clint Eastwood

Drive-In
Al Raqassah Wal Siyascen (Arabic)

Fahahel Open-Air
Chambal Ki Kasam (Hindi)

Al Firdous
Sheshay Ka Ghar (Hindi)
Starring: Raj Babbar, Padmini Kolhapure

Al Fahahel
No Hard Feelings
Al Jabra
Pratigya (Bengali)

Grasada
Jagata (Malayalam)

Sutabikhat
Dream Team

Al Jeel
Kala Kanoon (Bengali)

Ahmadi Drive-In
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwalkh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.13 am
Dhuhr Prayer	11.48
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	6.48
Isha	8.20

LEISURE

BLONDIE

By Bob Thompson



NAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Bob Thompson



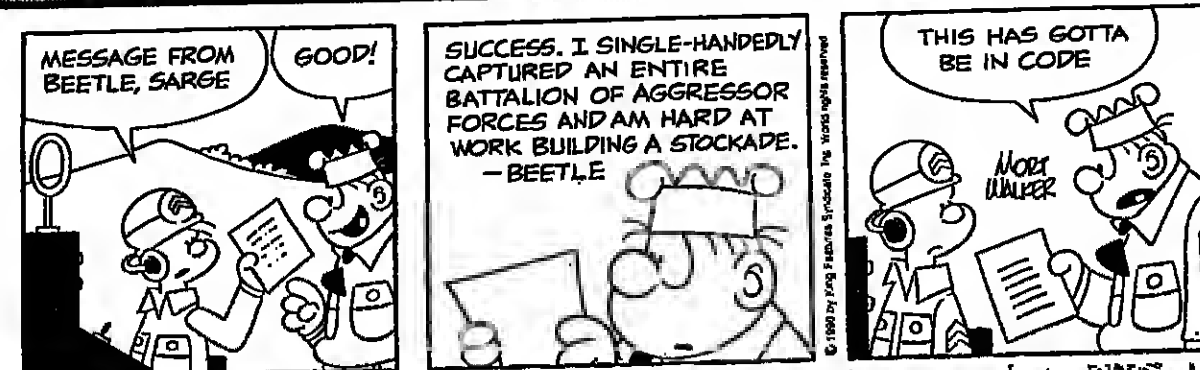
ACATHA CRUMB

By Bill Watterson



BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Mort Walker



ANDY CAPP

By Mort Walker



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

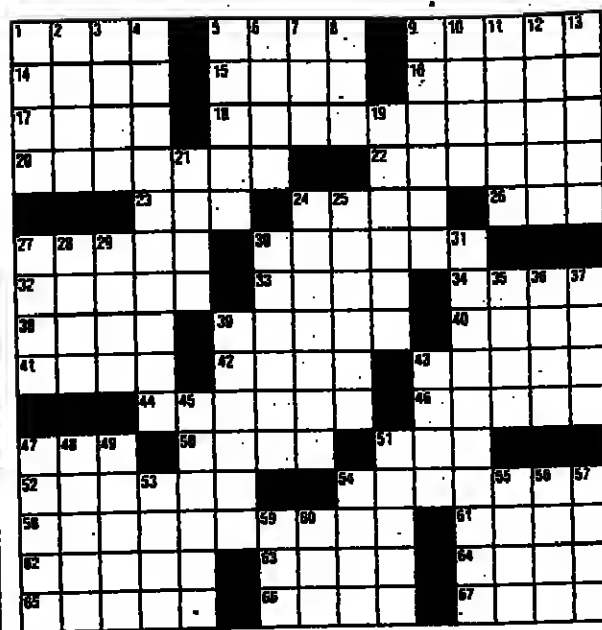


HE-MAN

By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Twosome

5 Griffin of TV

9 Kind of bear

14 Classify

15 Dies —

16 Words of wisdom

17 Fragrant East

18 Indian wood

20 Miss Piggy and

22 Member of the

23 Like a fox

24 Gush out

26 Charlotte, the

27 Polished

30 Toss about

32 Home of the

33 Route

34 Part of a church

38 Military division

39 Borgnine's

40 Word with cellar

41 Lassen the

42 Player's stake

43 Matura

44 Twist end

46 Spasm

47 Tsa, in China

50 Mortgage

51 Montana or

52 Point of a

54 Exacts

58 Operation for

61 Author-actor

62 Fragrance

63 Information

disclosure

DOWN

2 Small

65 Gathers

29 Go out

30 Medium's

31 Stubborn

35 Rain cats

36 Go it alone

37 Major follower

39 Overly

43 Power source

45 Puts on one's

47 Squeezes

48 Ergo

49 Office machine

51 Moving in its

53 Forward

54 Unwilling to

55 Nield of the

56 Timpani

57 Avoid

59 Ancient

60 Virginia's

capital?

62 Cut off

63 Babbles

64 Small

65 Gathers

66 Withstand

67 Choka

68 Down

69 Small

70 Amount

71 Bay of

72 Korea

73 Leader

74 Above

75 Firmly

76 Established

77 Like a rainy

78 Day

79 God of love

80 U.K. eirmen

81 Old-timer

82 Custard apples

83 See 62 Across

84 "Magic"

85 for one

86 Rocket stage

87 Income

88 In Paris

89 Rapid

90 Part of BPOE

91 Cut off

92 Babbles

93 Small

94 Gathers

95 Withstand

96 Choka

97 Down

98 Small

99 Amount

100 Bay of

101 Korea

102 Leader

103 Above

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106 Like a rainy

107 Day

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254 U.K. eirmen

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260 Rocket stage

261 Income

262 In Paris

263 Rapid

264 Part of BPOE

265 Cut off

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296 Small

297 Gathers

298 Withstand

299 Choka

300 Down

301 Small

302 Amount

303 Bay of

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

REQUIRED senior H.V.A.C. Draftsman Immediately

Contact Tel. No.
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1. Upholsterer for
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FLAT, Amman Street. One
bedroom, a saloon and hall, kit-
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First floor - 6 rooms, 1 hall, Ground
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kitchen. All bedrooms with built-in
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tele, with special entrance for
manager and engineer. Tele.
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ent room available for a decent
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(AT4-53136-3)

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Area 7, Street 206, Hussain Fahed
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room for an Indian family or
bachelor to share with an Indian
family. Contact Mr. Behari after 4
pm.
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share with a Goan family. Tele.
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KD50/-, Tele Mr. Fernandes
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riter and other items. Going
cheap. Tele 3720287.
(AT4-53149-1)

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dition KD400 cash. Tele Ake.
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(AT2-53079-3)

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and gun, Samsung fax (new),
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itor, disk drive, games. Tel.
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(AT2-53077-3)

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A well experienced sales
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Part-time or full time
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1st class
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sofa set, bedroom set, kitchen
cabinet, etc. Tel. 3923613, 5-10
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ces. Contact: 3910010, 3919459, 7
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(AT2-53084-3)

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grill, four hot plates, warming
drawer etc. 2 years old, very good
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5752851/70 extn 462 (home)
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(AT4-53134-3)

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10.35, 12.15 - 12.35, 1.20 - 1.45
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(AT4-53141-2)

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grey interior, fully automatic, air
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sanitary works.
3. Electrical Engineer: Registered the name with
M.E.W. Those who have not registered need not apply.
4. Electricians: At least 5 years' experience in Kuwait
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after 3pm.
(AT2-53055-3)

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ber for return call.
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(AT4-53145-3)

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(AT2-5097-3)

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(AT1-52654-4)

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(AT3-53124-3)

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(AT2-53082-3)

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Ravindran, 5747287.
(AT2-53082-3)

INDIAN lady having experience
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telex for 5 years in Bombay, hav-
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ble job. Tel 2614936, Shanti, 4 pm-
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(AT4-53117-3)

SPORTS

Careca scores both goals for winners

Brazil survive Swedish revival



Careca (right) is hugged by Muller (left) and Alemão after the second goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

TURIN, June 11. (Reuters): Brazil, showing glimpses of their old attacking magic, survived a late onslaught by Sweden to win 2-1 yesterday in the opening match of their bid to win a record fourth World Cup.

Napoli star Careca, easily Brazil's most dangerous forward, scored on either side of the interval to give the South Americans a comfortable two-goal lead.

But young Tomas Brodin, playing only his third international, launched a Swedish comeback in the 78th minute with a perfectly judged shot that gave Claudio Taffarel no chance.

The Swedes, urged on by substitutes Steffen Pettersson and Glenn Strömberg, forced the Brazilians into reverse for the next five minutes but failed to find the equaliser.

In the dying minutes, both Careca and Alemão could have stretched Brazil's lead but saw their shots well saved by Thomas Ravelli.

The final whistle signalled wild celebrations among the Brazilian samba bands in the 63,000 crowd in Turin's Alpi Stadium.

The result gave Brazil first points in Group C which also includes Scotland and Costa Rica who played today.

Careca brought a dullish first half to life in the 40th minute when he raced on to a Branco pass, rounded Ravelli and stroked the ball home.

The goal brought out the best in the Brazilians and, confidence soaring, they began to stroke the ball about like the sides who won the three World Cups between 1958 and 1970.

Careca almost conjured up a second goal with a clever flick only one minute later but Ravelli scrambled the ball clear from the feet of Alemão.

Sweden looked overwhelmed in the 63rd minute when Careca scored another simple goal after a scintillating move from midfield.

Muller, his striking partner, pulled the Swedish defence wide to the right and slotted a low, square pass across the goalmouth where Careca was lurking unmarked.

Strikers of his class do not miss such chances and the Swedish challenge looked over.

But the 20-year-old Brodin, showing no nerves in the carnival atmosphere of Turin, finally scored the goal he had threatened.

He controlled a high, looping pass, swung around and slammed the ball home from inside the penalty area.

The goal sparked a Swedish revival that had the thousands of Brazilians fans in the stadium holding their breath. But their heroes held out and fully deserved the win.

Careca, Muller and Alemão carved up the Swedish defence at will during much of the match and look good enough to trouble most countries.

"I am obviously pleased we have come away with two points and I think nobody could deny we merited our victory," Brazilian coach Sebastiao Lazaro said.

Brazilians celebrate

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 11. (AP): Brazilians launched a wild victory celebration yesterday to commemorate the national soccer team's 2-1 victory over Sweden in the World Cup's debut at the World Cup in Italy.

In Rio, revelers danced the samba on street corners, set off fireworks, bonked car horns and threw confetti from windows as soon as the referee blew the final whistle.

A poll before the World Cup showed 60 per cent of the population believed Brazil would win unprecedented fourth world championship and the win yesterday appeared to have swayed the remaining skeptics.

"They played great, even better than I expect," said Neyla Pereira Paula, a 38-year-old housewife. "They didn't play well in their

exhibition games, but now I'm convinced they will be the champions."

Brazil had played poorly in several recent warmup matches, including a 3-3 tie against East Germany on May 13 in Rio and a 1-0 loss to a Spanish select team on May 9.

But yesterday in Turin, star striker Careca scored two goals, the first in the 41st minute and the second in the 62nd minute, to lead Brazil.

"From here on in they're only going to get better," said doorman Jorge De Oliveira. "We're the favourites."

In Sao Paulo, the country's largest city, the major thoroughfare Avenida Paulista was blocked off all day as giant television screens were installed for residents to watch the game.

Italy finds successor to Conti

ROME, June 11. (Reuters): In Roberto Donadoni, Italy have at last found the natural successor to Bruno Conti, the inspiration behind their World Cup victory in Spain eight years ago.

Donadoni, like Conti a deep-lying right-winger with an enormous appetite for work, was superb in Italy's opening 1-0 victory over Austria in Group A and looks set to emerge as one of the stars of the tournament.

Should Italy reach the World Cup final in Rome's Olympic Stadium on July 8, there will only be one player who knows every blade of grass on the field better than Donadoni.

His midfield partner Giuseppe Giannini has a perfect acquaintance with the pitch from playing in the Italian capital week in, week out, with home club as Roma.

But Donadoni is fast making up. The tireless running and phenomenal work-rate of the 26-year-old AC Milan player make him a vital cog in the machine. Italian trainer Azeglio Vicini has constructed to win the World Cup.

The quiet, introverted Donadoni says little about himself or his approach to the sport. But once the whistle blows for the kick-off, an almost mystical transformation develops his taste for self-expression.

"Before a match I am always very calm," he said. "There's no point getting worked up or worried. After all, when the game is over, everything seems to disappear as if by magic."

The magic is mainly Donadoni's. It is not just his work-rate which is so important to the team, it is his dribbling skills, his jinking runs down the flanks and his astute passes and crosses. Against Austria he set up numerous chances, only to see them squandered by his strikers.

After one brilliant run down the left in the first half, he somehow managed to put over a perfect cross from the byline even as he was being pushed off the ball from close range.

In the second, Austrian right-back Kurt Russ was forced to trip him in the box as he dribbled his way through but penalty appeals were ignored by the referee.

The curly-haired Donadoni, a devout Catholic with a penchant for fast cars, was brought in by Vicini after Italy flopped in the 1986 World Cup finals.

He made his debut in a 2-0 win over Greece, scored in his second match against Switzerland and has been a regular in the side ever since. Against Austria, he won his 31st cap.

Donadoni started his career with Atalanta Bergamo in the Italian Second Division, helped them into the first and soon attracted the attention of his mighty neighbours AC Milan, who signed him in 1986.

A key member of the championship-winning side to 1988, he has been the main provider for Dutch strikers Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten in the Milan teams which captured the European Cup in each of the last two seasons.

This season he missed the final with Benfica in Vienna after being sent off for retaliation in the quarterfinals with Belgian champions Mechelen.

Unlike his other Milan colleagues, Donadoni at least was able to join the Italian World Cup training camp early but he took time off to fly to Austria to watch the final.



Dunga (right) tries to stop Brodin. (Reuters wirephoto)



Sweden's Roland Nilsson and Careca fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cameroon plot Romania's defeat

BARI, June 11. (Agencies): Manager Valery Nepomniachy has two secret plans to beat Romania after plotting Cameroon's historic World Cup win over defending champions Argentina.

"I talked about it today with the players. I have two plans, depending on how Romania play," Nepomniachy said yesterday as the African team prepared for the Group B clash next Thursday.

But he did not reveal his secrets. "I saw how Romania played against the Soviet Union on Saturday and if they so again, I have a plan. We'll also be ready if they change their game," he said.

"I'm a realist. Argentina, Romania and the Soviet Union are stronger than we are so we have to do our best to stop them following

their game plan." Nepomniachy, who is Russian, said he was impressed by Romania's 2-0 defeat of the Soviet Union on Saturday.

"They are strong in midfield, which will be a big problem. And they are well organised by their manager," he said.

Nepomniachy must find two players to replace Benjamin Massing and Andre Kanabiyik who were sent off in Friday's 1-0 win over Argentina.

"This is a problem because they were part of the basic team but we have replacements for each player, although they are younger and not so experienced," he said, without naming the replacements.

Nepomniachy said Cameroon beat Argentina because they stuck to their game strategy and were fired up by the big occasion. While Diego Maradona and his team were below form.

"The players did all we asked of them and were very disciplined. And Maradona was only 50 per cent of his normal self," Nepomniachy said.

Cameroon owes its World Cup success to physical prowess, team doctor Pierre Tsala Mbala says, but with doctors and sorcerers may give the players a psychological edge.

Witchcraft plays a major role in African soccer, even though officials have tried in recent years to discourage ties between players and purveyors of "traditional medicine."



Americans indifferent about Cup

Most Americans either did not know or did not care that the US national soccer team crashed to a 5-1 defeat to Czechoslovakia yesterday in their first appearance in the World Cup finals for 40 years.

Television broadcasts were limited to two cable television stations, one English-language and the other Spanish-language, and the total number of viewers was not expected to reach one million in a country of about 250 million people.

The major sporting event of the day for most sports fans was the third game of the National Basketball Association finals in Oregon between the Portland Trail Blazers and the Detroit Pistons.

The major television network, which all spurned the World Cup, were also showing baseball, boxing and golf, though they did feature one overseas event — the men's singles final of the French Open tennis championships.

Many of the bigger US newspapers sent correspondents to Italy for the championships but the coverage for the most part was limited to the inside pages of the sports sections.

Right: US goalkeeper Tony Meola kisses his cross, after the fourth goal against his team, as he seeks God's intervention in the match to avoid a humiliating defeat. Above: US player Bruce Murray (left) dives through the air as he heads the ball. (Reuters wirephotos)



Matthaeus (left) falls on his knees after scoring his first goal. Right: Matthaeus being congratulated by his team-mates. (Reuters wirephoto)



West Germans rout Yugoslavs

MILAN, June 11. (Reuters): Lothar Matthaeus led West Germany to a rousing 4-1 triumph over Yugoslavia yesterday to send a shudder down the spines of their World Cup rivals.

Captain Matthaeus inspired the Group D win with two brilliant goals and gave early substance to team chief Franz Beckenbauer's boast that there is no stronger team in the 24-nation tournament.

Matthaeus struck the first in the 29th minute and charged through for a spectacular third in the 63rd.

Juergen Klinsmann scored the second with a brilliant glancing header five minutes before the interval and Rudi Voeller scrambled in the 70th minute fourth, which had been the creation of outstanding overlapping left back Andreas Brehme.

Davor Zovic, who twice fatally failed to cut out the danger of Matthaeus, enjoyed his moment in the 55th minute when he headed home from a free kick by playmaker Dragan Stojkovic to reduce the arrears to 2-1.

But Yugoslavia were outclassed and could not deny West Germany a win fashioned by the trio from Inter Milan where Klinsmann and Brehme are club mates of Matthaeus.

Matthaeus celebrated the opening of his third World Cup finals campaign and his first as captain with a timely goal to break the deadlock after West Germany had created a series of purposeful attacks.

Matthaeus, in front of the box on the right, fastened on to a pass from defender Stefan Reuter, turned to evade Zovic's challenge and hammered his left-foot shot beneath goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic's dive to the right.

The midfield dynamo capped this eight minutes after Yugoslavia had reduced the deficit to 2-1 when he raced irresistibly through the Yugoslav half, beating Zovic once again, and hammered a right-footed drive from outside the box into the same corner of the net.

Brehme created Klinsmann's goal, bringing the ball down the left and pumping over a cross which the blond striker met as he threw himself forward at the near post and headed into the far corner.

Brehme started inauspiciously when he was booked in the seventh minute, to his disgust, for a foul on Yugoslav defender Zoran Vukic.

But he soon began to parade his skills on his home pitch and crowned his performance 20 minutes from the end when he fired in a shot from the left flank which the keeper fumbled.

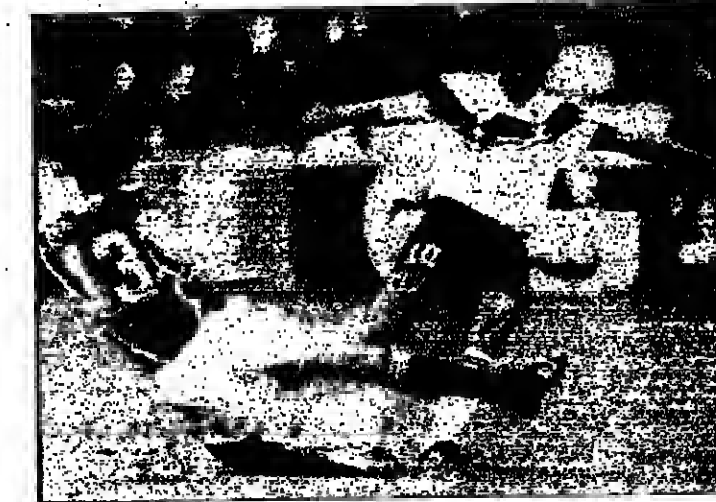
Vucelja raced in as Ivkovic turned to try to retrieve the ball and got the final touch as it rolled over the goal-line.



Klinsmann about to tell over Yugoslavia's Pradrag Spasic. (Reuters wirephoto)



Voeller (right) scores the 4th goal for West Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)



Lothar Matthaeus (right) shoots the ball while Yugoslavia's Sracko Kalanec tries to stop him. (Reuters wirephoto)

Caniggia expected to lead Argentina attack

TRIGORIA, Italy, June 10. (Reuters): Holders Argentina, still shell-shocked after the 1-0 defeat by Cameroon in the opening match of the World Cup, may make wholesale changes for the clash with the Soviet Union on Wednesday.

Claudio Caniggia, the striker favoured by captain Diego Maradona who most troubled Cameroon's defence when he came on as a second half substitute, is expected to start the vital Group B match in Naples.

Coach Carlos Bilardo hinted he may turn to experienced players for the match the world champions must not lose if they are to retain a realistic chance of staying in the competition.

The Soviet Union lost 2-0 to Romania on Saturday. Bilardo, explaining on Saturday that he would make no tactical changes, said:

"We'll continue with what we've been doing for 20 days. It's what we did from 1984 to 1986 with (Ricardo) Giusti and (Vasco) Julio Olarticochea. Now we do it with (Nestor) Lorenzo and (Roberto) Sensi."

He was referring to the two players on the flanks in his five-mao midfield who double as backs.

The newer members of the Argentine side were let down by nerves against Cameroon and Bilardo could be planning to field a majority of 1986 veterans against the Russians.

Giusti, 33, and Olarticochea, 31, were in the side who beat West Germany in the World Cup final in Mexico four years ago.

The other 1986 veterans in the squad, Maradona, goalkeeper Nery Pumpido, stopper Oscar Ruggeri and midfielders Sergio Batista and Jorge Burruchaga, played against Cameroon.

Bilardo said rugged Real Madrid defender Ruggeri, who was substituted because of back pains, would probably miss Wednesday's match.

Czechs dedicate win to Havel

FLORENCE, Italy, June 11. (AP): Czechoslovakia dedicated yesterday's 5-1 World Cup victory over the United States to President Vaclav Havel and his Civic Forum party.

"Our players were very sorry that they were not able to take part in our country's elections over the weekend," captain Ivan Hasek said in reference to the country's first free voting in 44 years.

"We were happy that President Havel's Civic Forum won the election at home," said Hasek, who scored a goal in the lopsided victory against the US.

"We would like to dedicate today's victory to President Havel. And we believe that if we continue to play well and qualify for the second round, President Havel will come to Italy to see us play."

Havel was a playwright who was jailed for his political activism under the former hardline communist leadership ousted in last year's so-called "Velvet revolution."

Pistons end jinx to take 2-1 lead

PORTLAND, Oregon, June 11, (Reuters): The Detroit Pistons, led by Joe Dumars' 33 points, ended a 16-year Portland jinx to beat the Trail Blazers 121-106 yesterday and take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven National Basketball Association finals.

Vinnie Johnson came off the bench to add 21 points for the Pistons as they won for the first time in Portland since 1974, a 20-game losing streak.

"If you're going to end a 16-year losing streak, this is as good a place and time to do it as any," Detroit coach Chuck Daly said.

Career
Dumars scored 21 of his points in the second half as the Pistons staged off every Portland run. He made 11 of 22 shots from the field and nine of nine from the free throw line, falling two points short of his career playoff high.

But there was to be no celebrating for him. He learned after the game that his father had died earlier in the day at his home in Natchitoches, Louisiana, after a long illness.

Dumars had asked that he not be notified if his father died before a game.

The victory restored the hometown advantage to the Eastern Conference champion Pistons after their loss at home in the second game. The fourth and fifth games are to be played here tomorrow and Thursday before the series returns to Detroit for the sixth and seventh games, if necessary.

Johnson, who had been mired in a shooting slump, broke out to make nine of 13 from the field and three of three from the foul line, singlehandedly outscoring the Portland bench 21-12.

Isiah Thomas added 21 points, as the three Detroit guards combined for 75 points.

Forward Jerome Kersey led Portland with 27 points, including 20 in the second half. Clyde Drexler collected 24 points, 13 rebounds and 8 assists while Terry Porter had 20 points and nine assists for the Blazers.

Portland jumped in front early, but Detroit used a 13-2 spurt late in the first quarter to seize a 29-24 lead and the Pistons never trailed again.

Detroit led 58-51 at the half and 90-82 after three quarters, then scored the first eight points of the fourth period to go in front 98-82. The closest the Blazers got the rest of the way was 109-82. The closest the Pistons got the rest of the way was 109-82 with just over three minutes left.

"You have to give Detroit a lot of credit," Portland coach Rich Adelman said. "They took control of the game early and maintained it. They did a great job of executing what they had to do."

But when he heard Lendl was giving Roland Garros a miss to prepare for Wimbledon, Gomez was filled with optimism.

"Last year I was thinking of taking some time off, maybe for ever. But I gave a try because I heard that Lendl would not be at the French Open," he said.

"The only one that worried me was Lendl. I was not afraid of any other player."

In 11 previous attempts to lift the trophy in Paris, Gomez's best result had been to reach the quarterfinals in 1984, 1986 and 1987. Each time he lost to the Czechoslovak world number one.

He had even considered giving up tennis after his 1988 Davis Cup defeat against Martin Jaita but after a long talk with the

Argentine, Gomez agreed to keep pursuing the victory which had eluded him during a distinguished career.

Now Gomez has the elusive title and at the same time succeeded in stopping the onslaught of young tennis stars at Roland

Piquet second, Mansell third Senna wins Canadian GP

MONTREAL, June 11, (Reuters): Ayrton Senna swept to a comfortable win in his McLaren under difficult conditions at the Canadian Grand Prix motor race yesterday to record his 23rd career victory.

The Brazilian was in complete control and was never seriously challenged as he maintained nearly a 30-second gap for most of the race to score his third win of the season and extend his drivers' championship lead over McLaren team-mate Gerhard Berger.

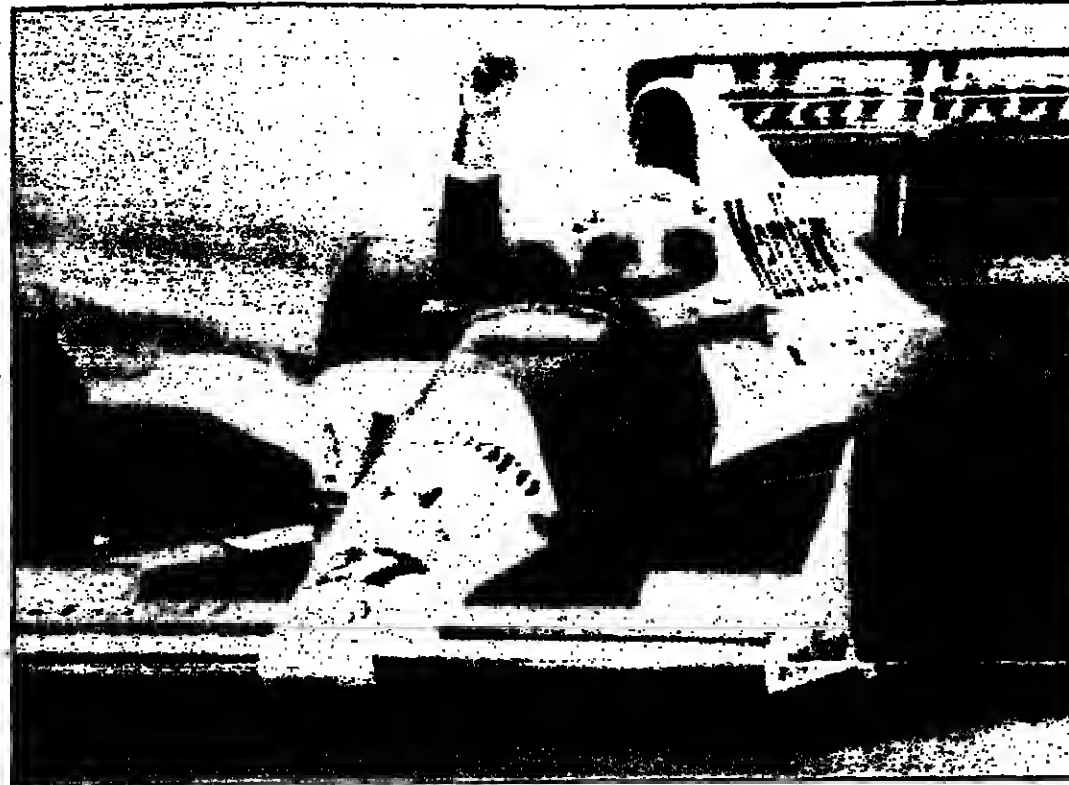
Senna now has 31 points after five rounds to Berger's 19. Berger ran a tremendous race and actually reached the chequered flag first, but a critical tactical error cost him dearly.

The Austrian jumped the start and was assessed a one-minute penalty. He eventually posted the fourth best time and had to settle for three points after a blistering one minute 22.077 final lap — the fastest of the race — that enabled him to overtake Alain Prost, who finished fifth in his Ferrari.

"I'm sure I would have won," said the bitterly disappointed Berger. Senna was aware of Berger's penalty almost immediately and never attempted to overtake his team-mate.

"As soon as he was penalised the team called me on the radio. I tried to go as quick as I could but I was not racing him," said Senna, who added that the wet track at the beginning of the race made setting up the car a guessing game.

Brazilian Nelson Piquet, driving a Benetton, won a thrilling duel for second with the Ferraris of Nigel Mansell and Prost that



Senna waves his fist in the air after winning the race (Reuters wirephoto)

provided much of the race's drama.

Piquet moved into third behind Prost on the 20th lap of the 69-lap race on circuit Gilles Villeneuve. In the battle of three-time world champions, Piquet finally overtook the Frenchman on the 49th lap and held on despite constant pressure from the Ferraris.

Mansell passed Prost on the next lap and finished third to take his first spot on the winners' podium this season and the Frenchman, who has never won in Canada, settled for fifth after Berger made up enough time to take fourth.

Briton Derek Warwick claimed his first point of the season for

finishing sixth in his Lotus.

"This result was really good for the team," said Warwick. "It was important to finish in the points here and all the hard work everybody put in has been rewarded."

Mansell said he was very happy with the reliability of the Ferraris, which both finished in the points

for only the second time this season and moved into second place in the constructors' championship on 21 points — 29 back of McLaren.

"We've been in a podium position on several occasions. It's just that you have to get to the end of the race," said Mansell, who added that there were some tense moments as he, Piquet and Prost were battling.

"At times I thought we were all going to sort of squash one another," the Briton said.

Piquet was asked to describe his feelings as he attempted to overtake Prost and hold off Mansell. "It was like a Ferrari sandwich and I was the ham," Piquet said with a laugh. "Nigel was going very strong behind me and I just held on."

World champion Prost now stands third in the drivers' championship with 14 points as he moved ahead of compatriot Jean Alesi, whose Tyrrell was one of several cars to slide off the wet track.

Alesi had made his typical dynamic start to move from the eighth spot on the grid to fourth on the very first lap.

But on the 27th lap the French street fighter, who finished second in Monaco and Phoenix, hit a wet spot on the track that had earlier claimed the Benetton of Italian Alessandro Nannini.

Alesi, who had complained of the performance of his Pirelli tyres on wet surfaces, spun sideways, then backwards, picking up speed until he crashed into Nannini's Benetton, which was already helpless against the tyre barrier.

Wynn gets Douglas fight for \$32.1m

NEW YORK, June 11, (Reuters): Las Vegas casino owner Steve Wynn froze out rival gambling mogul Donald Trump with a successful \$32.1 million purse bid for heavyweight champion James "Buster" Douglas' first title defence in September.

Wynn, in competition with Trump to host high-ticket heavyweight fights which bring in millions of dollars to the casino which stages the bouts, beat out promoter Dan Duva who bid \$29.1 million to put on the Douglas fight against Evander Holyfield, whom Duva regularly promotes.

Thirty-two million. That's an unbelievable figure," Duva said after losing the bid.

The purse bid for the fight was conducted by the World Boxing Association (WBA) — whose turn it is to sanction the next heavyweight title fight — following the inability of the Douglas and Holyfield camps to agree on a promoter.

As the champion, Douglas, who knocked out Mike Tyson last February to win the title, will receive 75 per cent of the money. Holyfield, the number one challenger, will get 25 per cent.

Trump did not bid to be promoter. But had Duva won the bidding, which ironically was held at Trump's Plaza Hotel, Trump was widely expected to

have been a strong contender to get the fight for his Trump Plaza casino in Atlantic City.

But now the fight is scheduled for September 20 at Wynn's new

Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas.

"I think that it's going to be a tough promotion at that price," said Rich Rose president of Sports Promotions for Caesars World, which includes Caesars Palace in Las Vegas which has been the site of many successful fight promotions.

One Las Vegas casino executive figured that Wynn's bid included \$12 million for the site fee.

"Twelve million for a site fee is a lot of dollars," he said. Trump lost a very good chance to generate a large cash flow from the fight. He appears to need cash, according to reports that his huge real estate and gambling empire is being squeezed for ready money.

Trump often has said he is not having cash-flow problems. But nervous bankers apparently have been pressuring Trump to restructure his debt. Trump is due to make a \$30 million payment to Trump Casino bondholders in mid-June. While it appears he will make that payment, some Trump bondholders worry that it will be made at the expense of money owed them.



Tyson trains

Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson does sit ups on Sunday with his assistant manager Roly Holloway as he cools down from his workout at Caesars' Palace in Las Vegas (Reuters wirephoto)

Carson gets 'the double'

PARIS, June 11, (Reuters): Rasha won the Prix de Diane (French Oaks) horse racing classic by half a length at Chantilly yesterday to give jockey Willie Carson a French and English double.

The race also gave trainer Henry Cecil a one-two finish after the demolition of fourth runner-up Colour Chart, ridden by Cash Asmusen, and the promotion of Moon Cactus.

Asmusen was given a four-day ban and will miss Royal Ascot in England after the American jockey was adjudged to have interfered with Air de Rien, ridden by Alain Badel.

English champion Pat Eddery's mount Houseproud, the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (French 1,000 Guineas) winner, failed to stay the trip and finished a disappointing ninth.

Eddery had hoped to pull his third classic win in a week after a French and English Derby double.

Carson, who won the English Oaks in Salsabil at Epsom on Saturday, had an uncomfortable ride yesterday after losing his right stirrup as the field hurtled from the stalls.

53 boxers inducted into Hall of Fame

CANASOTA, New York, June 11, (AP): The international boxing Hall of Fame inducted its inaugural class yesterday with the help of Muhammad Ali and a number of other living legends of the sport.

Over 600 people assembled to witness the induction of 53 charter members in four categories, including Ali, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano and Sugar Ray Robinson.

The 90-minute induction marked the first time an official ceremony has been held to enshrine boxers in a permanent Hall of Fame, according to executive director Edward Brophy.

"Now fans have a place to go to see boxing's great champions remembered," said Brophy, adding that the museum's claim as "the" Hall of Fame now grows stronger.

Inductees

There are other boxing Halls of Fame, such as the one established by Ring magazine, but those are nothing more than "paper" halls, said Hall of Fame president Don Ackerman. In addition to plaques, each inductee will be immortalised with a plaster casting of his first, said Ackerman.

Thirteen of the fifteen living members enshrined as charter members attended the weekend-long activities, which included a professional fight Friday featuring North American Boxing Federation super bantamweight champion Tracy Patterson and a parade of champions yesterday.

"It's a great feeling," said ex-champion Bob Foster, who dominated the light heavyweight division between 1968 and 1974. "You go through all those battles for so many years. This is what it's for. A lot of fighters will never feel what I'm feeling today."

"I thought I'd be successful and dreamed I'd be a champion, but I never thought this would happen," said Archie Morre, who held the lightweight title for seven years until 1959. "This may seem trivial to a championship, but it's a great honour."

The inductees were selected by a panel of 110 boxing historians and members of the Boxing Writers Association. Fighters must be retired from the ring for five years before becoming eligible.

The first class contained so many members because "it's 1990 and we have nearly 100 years of boxing to catch up on," said Brophy. Future annual inductions will be limited to no more than seven people.

John L. Sullivan was among five inductees chosen in the pioneer category, which is made up of bare-knuckle boxers who fought before 1892 when professional boxing began under the Queensbury Rules.

A bell was rung for each of the deceased inductees as their names were announced.

An old-guard category contained 21 fighters whose careers came between 1893 and 1942, including Jack Dempsey, James J. "Gentleman Jim" Corbett, Bob Fitzsimmons and Jack Johnson.

When Johnson, who became the first black heavyweight champion in 1907 and held the title until 1915, was described as the greatest heavyweight of all time, Ali perked up in his seat. He began staring up and down the row of boxing greats, then peered out at the crowd, which responded with a chant of "Ali, Ali."



Muhammad Ali

Canizales retains IBF title

EL PASO, Texas, June 11, (AP): Orlando Canizales retained his International Boxing Federation bantamweight world title yesterday with a controversial victory over Paul Gonzales.

The end came at 30 seconds of the second round. The ringside doctor ruled Gonzales couldn't continue because of a cut on his left eyelid.

The cut occurred early in the first round of the scheduled 12-round bout. Gonzales and his handlers complained after the fight that the cut was from a butt and that the fight should have been declared a technical draw. The IBF and Texas Boxing Commission ringside representatives agreed that the cut was from a clean blow, however.

Yachtswomen describe ordeal

SYDNEY, Australia, June 11, (UPI): Two American women, rescued after languishing for three days abroad their sinking yacht in rough seas off the northeast Australian coast, said today there were times when they thought they would not survive.

Jeannie Talley and Joy-Beth Smith, both from Crescent City, Florida, were rescued by a Taiwanese cargo vessel yesterday from their damaged 36-foot (11-m) yacht Banshee after being spotted by searching aircraft about 390 miles (630 km) east of Rockhampton, Queensland state.

A spokesman for the Federal Sea Safety Centre in Canberra said the women's yacht was found wall-

owing in 20-foot (7-m) seas driven by a 50 mph (80 kph) gale.

They were later airlifted by army helicopter from the cargo ship to a hospital in Gladstone, near Rockhampton.

Talley was uninjured during the 72-hour ordeal but Smith suffered a possible broken leg.

"There were times we didn't think we were going to make it," Talley told the Sydney Daily Telegraph. "We got hit (by heavy seas) and went out a distress signal on Thursday night, then we just had to hang in there as best we could."

"We never gave up hope, but it was hell out there,"

Riley may quit

INGLEWOOD, California, June 11, (AP): Four championships in nine seasons. A 73.3 winning per centage. More than 100 playoff victories. It would be enough to satisfy any National Basketball Association coach. Apparently, it's enough for Pat Riley.

The Los Angeles Lakers were expected to announce today that Riley will step down and be replaced by Milwaukee Bucks assistant coach Mike Dunleavy, who has never been an NBA coach.

Team officials would say only that the news conference (scheduled for 12:30 pm PDT 1990 GMT) would address the coaching situation.

Lendl's absence gives Gomez new lease of life



Gomez celebrates after winning the French Open (Reuters wirephoto)

Argentine, Gomez agreed to keep pursuing the victory which had eluded him during a distinguished career.

Now Gomez has the elusive title and at the same time succeeded in stopping the onslaught of young tennis stars at Roland

Garros. His 6-3-66-46-4 victory over 20-year-old Agassi will have brought hope back to players fearing they were over the hill in their mid-20s.

His success yesterday has also renewed his passion for the game

and he said afterwards he did not intend to give up now.

"It is more a sunrise than a sunset. Now I know what I'm capable of doing," said Gomez, who looked out of place in Paris as exuberant youngsters such as Monica Seles, Jennifer Capriati

and Agassi basked in the spotlight.

Known as one of the most relaxed and likeable men on the international circuit, ranked seventh in the world, moves on to Wimbledon where his path may well cross Lendl's once more.

"While he was holding his two-year old son Juan Andres in his arms in Paris and savouring his French Open victory, Lendl was winning the Beckenham Lawn Tennis Championship as part of his warm up for Wimbledon.

With a game as disarming on court as his smile is off it, the part-time shrimp farmer has often been accused of playing like a part-time tennis professional.

Winners

"Some people may think I have a strange way to play. But I've always said that I was not a (Mat) Wilander. I haven't got a pair of legs to keep me running for six hours. My game is based on how many winners I hit, and how many I miss. I like it that way," he said.

For Gomez, who learnt his trade on the private courts of his compatriot Pancho Segura, a semifinalist at the US Open between 1942 and 1945, tennis has always remained a game.



Mark Benson



Neil Taylor

Kent share top spot

LONDON, June 11, (Reuters): Mark Benson and Neil Taylor hit half centuries as Kent beat Somerset by six wickets in the English one-day Cricket League yesterday.

Kent passed Somerset's total of 165 for seven with 13 balls to spare to remain joint top of the League with Middlesex.

Mark Ramprakash ensured Middlesex their sixth League victory in seven matches with an unbeaten 52 from 69 deliveries as they beat Hampshire by seven wickets.

Simon Hughes took four for 19 as Hampshire were dismissed for 140. West Indian Malcolm Marshall scored 46 for Hampshire. All-rounder David Capel reinforced his claims for a return to the England side with his first League century, scoring 121 off 100 balls as Northamptonshire beat Glamorgan by 10 runs.

He dominated a third-wicket stand of 191 with Roh Bailey, who hit a quickfire 71 to help Northamptonshire amass 244 for six.

West Indies' captain Viv Richards blasted 45 off 33 balls in Glamorgan's total of 234 for five.

Former England wicket-keeper Paul Downton was taken to hospital with an eye injury after being struck by a flying ball during a Sunday

League cricket match yesterday.

Results

At Northampton: Northamptonshire beat Glamorgan by 10 runs. Northamptonshire 244 for six innings closed (D. Capel 121, R. Bailey 71, M. Frost 40 for 30). Glamorgan 234 for five innings closed (G. Holmes 50 not out, V. Richards 45, R. Butcher 40, H. Morris 40). Northamptonshire four points.

At Canterbury: Kent beat Somerset by six wickets. Somerset 165 for seven innings closed (J. Cook 50). Kent 169 for four in 37.5 overs (N. Taylor 59, M. Benson 55). Kent four points.

At Leicester: Leicestershire beat Sussex by seven wickets. Sussex 152 for seven in 39.5 overs (M. Marshall 46). Leicestershire 140 in 37.5 overs (J. Whittaker 53 not out). Leicestershire four points.

At Basingstoke: Middlesex beat Hampshire by seven wickets. Hampshire 140 in 39.5 overs (M. Marshall 46). Middlesex 144 for three in 37.5 overs (M. Ramprakash 52 not out). Middlesex four points.

At Hove: Nottinghamshire beat Derbyshire by four wickets in an over restricted match. Derbyshire 227 for five innings closed (K. Barnett 63, A. Kuiper 46, P. Bowler 45). Nottinghamshire 238 for five in 37.5 overs (C. T. Robinson 116). Nottinghamshire four points.

At Old Trafford: Gloucestershire beat Lancashire by two wickets. Lancashire 230 for six innings closed (G. Lloyd 89). Gloucestershire 231 for eight in 39.4 overs (A. Wright 68, P. Romaine 45 not out). Gloucestershire four points.

At Huddersfield: Surrey beat Warwickshire by seven wickets. Warwickshire 155 for nine innings closed (C. T. Moody 54, D. Pringle three for 29). Surrey 158 for three in 35.3 overs (M. Waugh 60, B. Hardie 54). Surrey four points.

At Edgbaston: Essex beat Warwickshire by seven wickets. Warwickshire 155 for nine innings closed (C. T. Moody 54, D. Pringle three for 29). Essex 158 for three in 35.3 overs (M. Waugh 60, B. Hardie 54). Essex four points.

Merrill wins first game as Yankee boss

BALTIMORE, June 11, (AP): An instant after he earned his first victory as manager of the New York Yankees, Stump Merrill rushed to shake hands with an old friend — Dave Rightetti.

How appropriate that Rightetti was the one to preserve the Yankees' 5-2 victory over the Baltimore Orioles yesterday because he and Merrill worked together in Double-A Ball at West Haven in the late 1970s.

"He is the perfect guy to close it out for me," Merrill said. "He started with me when I started my career.... when I brought him in today, that's what went through my mind, that he would get the save of my first win."

Rightetti gave up one hit in the ninth inning to earn his 11th save and help the Yankees end an eight-game losing streak.

Baltimore shortstop Cal Ripken Jr played in his 1,307th straight contest, putting him in a tie for second with Everett Scott behind Lou Gehrig (2,130 games) on baseball's all-time list of consecutive games played.

Jimmy Jones (1-0), promoted from the Minors Saturday, scattered three hits in five innings in his first Major-League appearance of the season. Jay Tibbs (2-7) took the loss as Baltimore's four-game winning streak was stopped.

Results

American League			
Cleveland	4	Boston	0
Oakland	3	Kansas City	2
N.Y. Yankees	5	Baltimore	2
Detroit	4	Seattle	3
Chicago	5	Minnesota	3
Toronto	13	Milwaukee	5
Texas	2	California	1
National League			
N.Y. Mets	8	Pittsburgh	3
Chicago Cubs	7	Philadelphia	3
San Francisco	9	Atlanta	3
St. Louis	5	Montreal	3
Houston	4	Cincinnati	2
San Diego	2	Los Angeles	1

SPORTS NEWS

Hooligans slammed

ERBA, Italy, June 11, (AP): West German coach Franz Beckenbauer and his leading players today condemned German rowdies who battled with police in downtown Milan prior to the West Germany-Yugoslavia World Cup match. Beckenbauer called them "a horde of barbarians who must not be muddled with real German soccer fans."

Strikers injured

GENOA, June 11, (Reuters): Swedish forward Mats Magnusson aggravated a groin problem in his team's 2-1 defeat by Brazil and has no idea when he will be able to play again. Manager Ole Nordia said today Tomas Brodin, 20, also suffered an ankle injury in the match but the striker, whose goal in yesterday's Group C clash was his fifth in only three internationals, would probably be fit in a few days' time.

Swindon manager

SWINDON, England, June 11, (Reuters): Swindon manager Oswald Ardiles pledged today to stay with the troubled soccer club despite their demotion from the English First Division. But the former Argentine World Cup star, who had been quoted as saying he would quit if Swindon went down, criticised the Football League for demoting his club to the Third Division as a punishment for making illegal payments to players.

Railway staff

ROME, June 11, (Reuters): Italy's transport minister today ordered rebel railway staff not to hold a threatened strike which could disrupt the World Cup. Carlo Bernini's office said he issued work orders to engineers and station masters who called 24-hour strikes for Wednesday.

Reports dismissed

PALERMO, June 11, (Reuters): Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker today dismissed reports that his players were unhappy with his World Cup leadership. According to one Dutch newspaper, defender Adri van Tiggelen criticised Beenhakker for continually tinkering with the five-up during training, leaving the players unsure of who would play in tomorrow's game against Egypt. Another reported dispute over tactics in the Dutch camp.

Geboers wins

HELSINKI, June 11, (Reuters): Former world champion Eric Geboers of Belgium won the Finnish 500cc Motocross Grand Prix at Ruskasanta yesterday to close the gap on current leader Billy Liles of the United States to just seven points.

Lead extended

MARKLEO, Netherlands, June 11, (Reuters): Italy's Alessandro Puzar won both races at the sandy Markleto track in the Netherlands yesterday to stretch his already commanding lead in the 250cc and 500cc Motocross Championship to 82 points.

Levi triumphs

OAK BROOK, Illinois, June 11, (Reuters): Wayne Levi birdied four of his first six holes yesterday on his way to an easy victory in the \$1 million Western Open golf tournament, his second win in three weeks.

McDonald's golf

WILMINGTON, Delaware, June 11, (Reuters): Patty Sheehan scored a four-stroke victory over four golfers, including Japan's Ayako Okamoto, on Sunday in the \$650,000 McDonald's Championship at the Du Pont Country Club.

Soccer fans

OLBIA, Sardinia, June 11, (Reuters): Customs police arrested two English World Cup soccer fans yesterday after finding hashish hidden in their underclothes. Kevin Dorey, 24, and John Charles Good, 33, who flew to Olbia airport in northern Sardinia on a charter flight from London, were to appear before magistrates today charged with trying to import illegal substances, a spokesman said.

Uruguay face twin test against Spain in opening match

UDINE, June 11, (Reuters): Uruguay's billing as an outside bet for the World Cup title and their claim to have cleaned up a notoriously violent act face the acid test when they meet Spain in their opening match of the finals on Wednesday.

Wednesday.

The South Americans earned a disasteful reputation for brutality in the 1986 Mexico finals but coach Oscar Washington Tabarez has vowed to change the image of his squad and

captain Enzo Francescoli has said Uruguay's rough days are over.

Spain will be the first to find out whether they are serious in a potentially explosive encounter in Group E, which includes Belgium and South

Korea and is probably the toughest section of the finals.

Despite his pledge, Tabarez knows he will never have a team of choirboys and has said he hopes World Cup

referees will at least tolerate some rugged Latin soccer excitement.

"It's to be expected that World Cup matches should be rough. There is too much pressure on players. They are all fired up and it's quite natural for them

to lash out sometimes," he said.

But he added that referees need not worry that things might get out of hand as far as his team was concerned and said he backed FIFA's calls for fair play on the pitch.

Costa Rica triumph

Scots defeated in another Cup upset

GENOA, Italy, June 11, (AP): Costa Rica celebrated its World Cup debut Monday with a stunning 1-0 victory over Scotland in a Group C match.

Forward Juan Cayasso scored the only goal of the game in the 49th minute, beating goalkeeper Jim Leighton from close range after a clever backheel by teammate Claudio Jara.

Scotland attacked furiously after the goal, but was unable to beat the inspired goalkeeping of Gabelo Conejo.

In the second half, Conejo made a series of diving saves.

The defeat continued Scotland's poor record in the World Cup. The Scots have had a succession of talented players but never made it past the first

round in six previous appearances.

Scotland and Costa Rica are grouped with three-time champion Brazil and Sweden in Group C of the 24-nation tournament. Brazil defeated the Swedes 2-1 in Turin last night.

The first half saw play concentrated almost exclusively in midfield as Scotland struggled to find

a way past the packed Costa Rican defence.

Juan Cayasso sent a screaming drive just wide of goal in the seventh minute, but that was the only clear chance Costa Rica created.

At the other end, the Scots had three chances but were off target.

First, busy midfielder Roy Aitken sent a long-range shot over the crossbar.

Mo Johnston then sent a header just over the crossbar and watched as Conejo made a diving save from his crisp left-footed drive.

Cayasso's goal came from a rare Costa Rican attack, but it changed the pattern of the game.

After scoring, Costa Rica was content to soak up pressure as the Scots threw men forward in search of an equalizer.

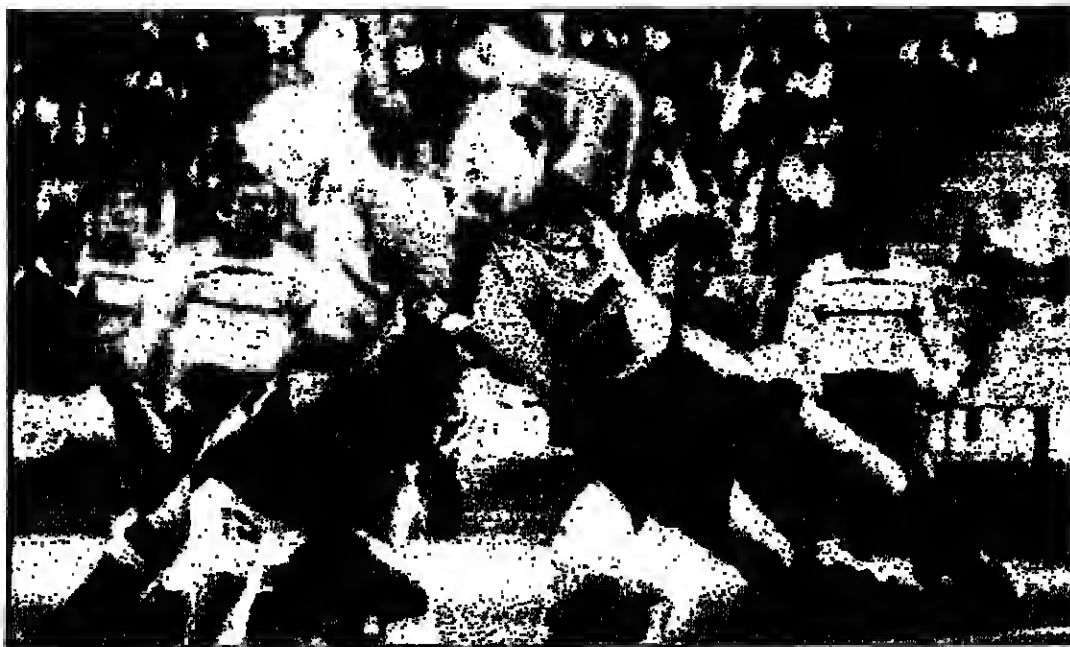
Conejo kept Costa Rica's lead intact when he made a point-blank save on a thunderbolt shot from Johnston in the 65th minute.

Standings

Group C standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Brazil	1	0	0	2	1	2
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1	0	2
Scotland	1	0	0	1	1	0
Sweden	1	0	0	1	2	0

Remaining matches: June 16 - Brazil vs Costa Rica (Turin), Sweden vs Scotland (Genoa), June 20 - Brazil vs Scotland (Turin), Sweden vs Costa Rica (Genoa).



Scotland goalkeeper Jim Leighton makes a spectacular save. (Reuters wirephoto)

Koeman happy with change

Rijkaard to get midfield role

PALERMO, June 11, (Reuters): Dutch libero Ronald Koeman said today he did not mind his partner Frank Rijkaard being moved out of defence into midfield for the World Cup game with Egypt tomorrow.

Rijkaard's dominance in defence was one of the key ingredients when the Netherlands won the European championships in 1988. But tomorrow he is expected to move forward into the position he occupies with his club AC Milan.

"Frank is one of the best midfield players in the world so it makes sense for him to play in that position," Koeman said.

Rijkaard's place at the back will almost certainly

go to Graeme Rutjes.

"We've got to go out and be positive against Egypt, looking for goals," Koeman said.

"The days when you beat this sort of little-known team 5-0 or 6-0 are long gone," he added.

Koeman said the Dutch were keen to start playing. "We've been sitting around watching for four days and now we're looking forward to getting out on the pitch," he said.

The Barcelona player, whose elder brother Erwin is also a regular in the Dutch team, said he was happier with his own form and fitness than he had been for a while.

Kasparov quits GMA

MURCIA, Spain, June 11, (Reuters): Soviet world chess champion Garry Kasparov has quit as president of the Grandmasters Association (GMA) in a dispute with the International Chess Federation (Fide), chess officials said on Monday.

They said Kasparov, overwhelmingly re-elected president by the GMA general assembly yesterday, resigned minutes later to protest at the outgoing board's agreement to collaborate with Fide on chess rules.

"I don't understand why they vote for an agreement which I totally oppose and then elect me by 115 votes out of 125," he said.

GMA represents the world's 250-odd grandmasters and works with Fide to organise the world championship. It also organises a World Cup tournament, which Kasparov won last year.

Jansher wins

DUBBO, Australia, June 11, (AP): World squash champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan celebrated his 21st birthday four days early today by winning the Dubbo Open invitational event over Australia's Mark Carlyon.

Jansher struggled to win the opening set 10-8, then rebounded for 9-1 and 9-2 scores in the remaining sets over Carlyon.

Victory set for American racing debut

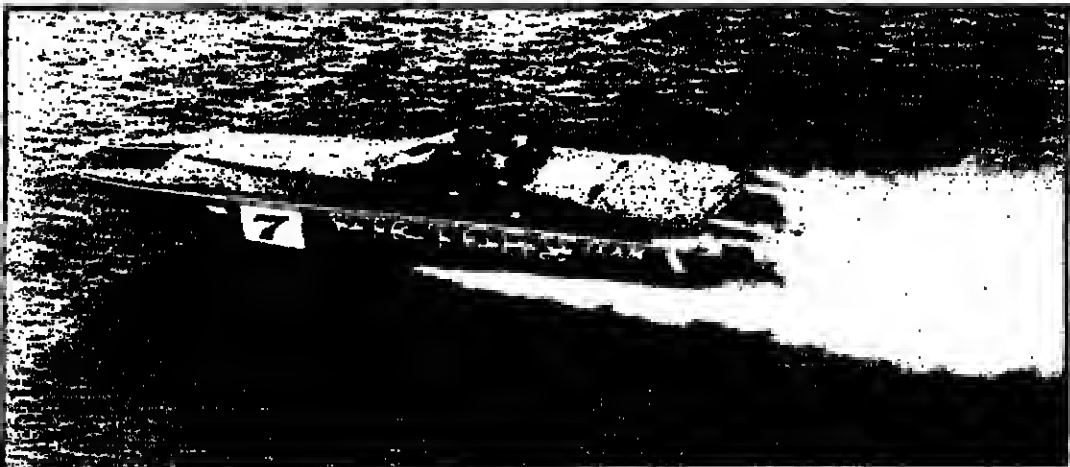
DUBAI: Four crews from Dubai's all-conquering Victory Team, the most successful powerboat racing team in the Middle East, will face the biggest test of their ability when they line up in two major American powerboat races in July and August.

After making a clean sweep of all six Class A titles in this year's Middle East championship, the team will make its first competitive appearance outside the region in Sarasota, Florida on July 1 and in Detroit on August 4.

From Victory's flotilla of 11 superboats, four have already been shipped to the USA where Victory team manager Randy Scism will put them through their paces before the action begins in three weeks' time.

"Everyone in the team is excited about the prospect of racing in America," said Scism, winner of this year's Middle East and UAE Class A co-drivers' titles. "We have proved ourselves the best in the Gulf, now it's time to see if we can compete with the top international teams."

Organised by the Suncoast Offshore Racing Association, the local club sanctioned by the



Victory 7: ready for American debut after an unbeaten season in the Gulf.

American Powerboat Association (Apba), the Florida race is the flagship event of the entire US race circuit, attracting more than 50 crews from around the world.

"The race is an annual event to raise money for handicapped children and is usually watched by up to 250,000 spectators along Sarasota coast of the Gulf of Mexico," said Scism.

Joining him in the cockpit of Victory 7 will be the UAE's

Hamed Buheleba, winner of the 1989-90 Middle East and UAE Class A drivers' championships. The second Victory inboard in the starting line-up - Victory 11 - will be driven by Middle East Class B drivers' champion Khalaf Hareh with Ed Coyler working the throttle.

Completing the Victory line-up will be reigning UAE Class B champions Khalifa Nasser and America's Terry Ayers in the outboard Victory 108, while

Saeed Al Tayar and Skip Harper will race in Victory 106.

Scism added: "We will be up against boats which are more than 10ft longer than Victory 7 and which have 30 per cent greater horsepower. But if the water in the Gulf of Mexico is flat, we may cause one or two surprises."

After Sarasota, the team will regroup the boats before heading for Detroit for the second challenge of their short US tour.

W. German hooligans jailed

MILAN, June 11, (Reuters): Italy jailed two West German World Cup soccer hooligans for a year each yesterday for attacking a policeman and 43 others were deported after they ran amok in central Milan.

A West German consulate official said the two, aged 24 and 19, were jailed in Salo, near Lake Garda and fined 900,000 lire (\$720) each for attacking a carabinieri paramilitary policeman yesterday. They were also charged with vandalism and drunkenness.

Italy's main anti-hooligan effort has been concentrated on Sardinia where England's notorious soccer fans have gathered for their team's opening World Cup match against Ireland tonight.

But the worst World Cup violence erupted in an unexpected quarter, the northern business capital of Milan, and areas around Lake Garda, near Verona.

About 1,000 drunken West Germans smashed a dozen shop windows and a tram and devastated three underground railway stations in Milan yesterday. They fought running battles with riot police and rival Yugoslav fans.

Police fired tear gas to subdue the Germans who grabbed bricks and steel girders from a builder's yard. The battle erupted in the square in front of Milan's soaring Gothic cathedral and in the exclusive shopping streets nearby.

Italians joined in to beat up at least one of the Germans.

Bachmann said eight West



Policemen in full riot gear walk through the streets of Milan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Germans and 18 policemen were injured. Another 43 were charged with various offences and then deported on buses with police escorts.

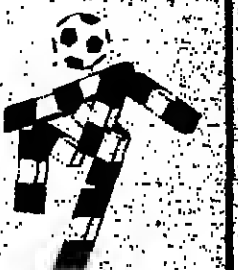
Witnesses said the fans emptied shop fronts after smashing the windows and ransacked a supermarket in the area.

Bachmann said the injured Germans had mainly cut their

feet when they kicked in shop windows.

The incidents indicated that a draconian alcohol ban introduced on match days in all the 12 World Cup venues was having little effect. Most of the German hooligans were drunk and police said they had bought large quantities of beer with them.

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